

Record history and description of the Bennington Battle monument.

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RECORD

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

— OF THE —

Bennington Battle Monument,

— AND THE CEREMONIES AT THE —

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE,

AUGUST 16TH, 1887.

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HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

—OF THE—

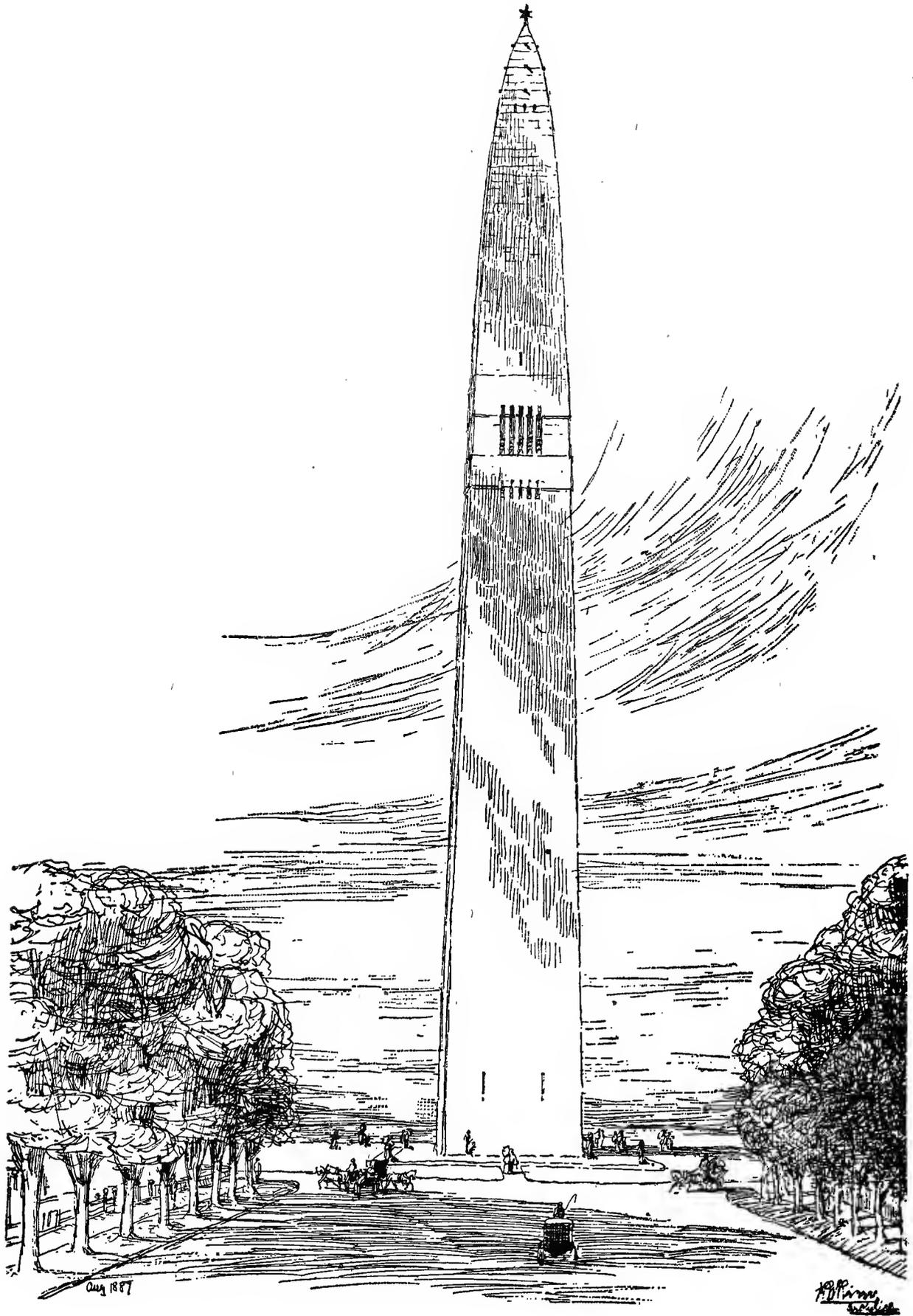
Bennington Battle Monument,

—AND THE CEREMONIES AT THE—

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE,

AUGUST 16TH, 1887.

A.145160



Showing the Site, and the Monument from the Working Plans. Height. 301 feet. J. Ph. Rinn, Architect.

It is not to be doubted that with the completion of the BENNINGTON BATTLE MONUMENT the town of Bennington will have one of the most interesting memorial structures yet erected in this country. An examination of the plans and of the model for the monument in the office of the architect, MR. J. PH. RINN, in this city, shows at once that it is original in conception, unique in character, dignified and impressive. The location for the monument seems to have offered an exceptional opportunity of which the architect has been quick to take advantage. The elevation of the State Arms Hill, some 300 feet above the Walloom-sac Valley, with Mt. Anthony 2000 feet high  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile back of it to the south, presented at the outset conditions that absolutely demanded a structure that should have in itself some of the same elements of majesty and grandeur that will constitute its surroundings and that should fit in as a component part of the landscape. This must have been the underlying purpose of Mr. Rinn in developing his plans, and he has succeeded in producing a design that cannot fail to be wholly in harmony with the site which has been selected for it, and with the spirit of the event which it commemorates. It was perhaps no easy matter to accomplish this, but as we look now at the completed plans and models it seems as though the tall, severe shaft really offered the only possible satisfactory solution of the problem. And thus it is that Bennington will have a structure that will dignify and honor the occasion that has called it into existence.

The foundation for the structure is now being put in by the contractor, Mr. W. H. Ward, of Lowell, Mass. It was discovered upon investigation that the solid limestone ledge that constituted the site selected offered of itself a superb natural foundation solid as the everlasting hills and capable of supporting forever any building that might be put upon it. On three sides this ledge was levelled off in order to make a smooth and uniform surface and on it the foundation for the monument is now being laid. The foundation is 44 feet square at its base and runs up to a height of 9 feet, the sides inclining at a slight angle, like a pyramid, so that at the top it is 37 feet square. The foundation is of limestone from the Fillmore quarry, the stone the greater part of which are 7 feet long, 4 feet wide and 2 feet thick, are laid in cement and with cement pointed joints outside. The ground will be graded around this foundation so that about four feet of it will be beneath the surface.

On top of this foundation stands the structure proper. This it will be seen from the accompanying engraving, is a simple shaft in the form of an obelisk, 301 feet high from foundation to apex. It will be built of Sandy Hill dolomite or magnesian limestone. At the base the walls are seven feet six inches thick, decreasing gradually to a thickness of two feet at the apex. The outside will be built with what is known technically as headers and stretchers. These are stones cut in long blocks; the stretchers are laid lengthwise and the headers with ends to the outer wall, and running through to the inside. The outside wall is thus laid until a height of about 260 feet is attained, after which all stones extend through the walls. Inside, the walls are left in the rough natural state of the rock. The outside walls have a rough finish, the limestone being left with a rock or split face.

At the right angle corners of the shaft where the sides meet and also at all windows and other openings the stone is finished in quarter-inch draft lines or arris, that is it is finished smoothly and along these lines the stone is pitched off and brought on line with joints of ashler so that arris and joints come to one plane. This device adds much to the artistic beauty of the shaft. It breaks what might otherwise be a hardness of line at the corners and helps to give the column an airiness and gracefulness that constitute one of its most agreeable qualities. The sharpness of outline is in no way diminished by this arrangement while it gives added ease to the whole structure and what may be termed a graceful movement, for the eye is carried thereby involuntarily from the base to the apex even after the finished line itself has disappeared, melting away imperceptibly as the height increases.

For the outside the coarse ashlers or headers and stretchers as they have been denominated are laid in courses in random length. The joints between the ashlers will be filled in with Portland cement and coarse sand. These joints thus pointed concaved, smoothly tooled and the color of the limestone rock, give the column an air of unity and harmony in finish. The 20 upper courses completing the upper 40 feet of the shaft are jotted or bound together laterally with half-inch copper rods imbedded in the surface of the stone and firmly leaded into each block. A capstone crowns the structure.

At the height of 200 feet up the shaft there is an entablature 8 feet high and 14 feet above this another entablature 12 feet

high. These entablatures encircle the shaft on all four sides. They do not project from the surface but the blocks of stone constituting them have hammered faces so as to offer a slight contrast to the rough face of the rest of the structure. A few feet above the lower line of the lower entablature on each of the four sides of the shaft there is an opening 11 feet wide by 14 feet high. In each of these openings stands a double row of plain columns, four of the columns being flush with the outer surface of the shaft and the others behind them in the interior. These columns are 16 inches apart and across the front row on the inside are run 3 three-inch brass rods a foot apart. The back row of columns is flush with the inside walls of the shaft and visitors can pass between them and, advancing up to the bronze railing look out upon the landscape through the spaces between the front columns.

Sixteen feet below these large openings each side has a group of five narrow windows that really appear like so many narrow slits cut in the column, and again on each side is another similar opening or window above and three others still higher up. Near the base are also windows on each side.

On the west a large oak door with bronze grills and trimmings gives entrance to the structure. Over the door is a large lintel 4 feet by 8 feet on which it is intended shall be carved heads of Generals Stark, Warner and Allen. The interior as you enter is 22 feet square. The floor is laid on top of the foundation structure and is made of North River flagging, 6 inches thick. A stairway leads upward into the shaft. This is laid in successive flights up three sides of the shaft and then on the fourth side there is a platform, the same arrangement being then repeated again and again until the upper part of the structure is reached. The several platforms are lighted by openings in the wall on the south side and where the 5 windows have been noted as appearing there is a platform or floor of flagging on iron beams with brick arches across the whole interior space. On the level of the larger columned opening there is another floor constituting the main outlook.

This description with the accompanying engraving may give a tolerably good idea of how the shaft will appear when completed. It must entirely fall short however of conveying any adequate impression of the real beauty of the structure. Something can be derived from an inspection of the large plaster model in the studio of Mr. Rinn. Here, inadequate as this model must be in comparison with the completed work, we are made to feel at once its simplicity, its grandeur and its pure artistic beauty. First of all it impresses you with its solidity. It stands firmly without being aggressive but as though it might in its impressive grandeur defy the ages, as it assuredly will. You feel that it means something more than a pleasing fancy which unfortunately is about all there is in a great many monumental structures in this country. There is a dignity, a grandeur, a force of character in it that holds you strongly. This feeling is no mere figment of the imagination. It is something that must strike anyone who sees the structure and is easily explainable by the masterly manner in which the architect has adapted certain immutable laws of construction to express certain thoughts. Therein has been one of his greatest points of success.

Then the beauty of line in the shaft is remarkable. The artistic eye will note and appreciate this and every observer will feel it. Take the principal line of the structure as it rises from the base to the summit. There is not a break in it, for the entablatures and the openings in the walls do not break it in an artistic sense. It holds to the strength and solidity of the base at the outset and rises with exquisite grace and sensibility to the apex until it seems almost to float off into space. The inclination that is given to it is admirable and clear-cut without being sharp, soft without being weak, it is wholly artistic and beautiful. As the shaft stands relieved against the background of Mt. Anthony and is looked at from a short distance say from the foot of the hill on which it stands these points must be more apparent than they now are in the model and the effect must be superb.

Then you cannot fail to be impressed with the simplicity of the structure. There has been no straining after effect, no attempt at meretricious ornament. The architect has held himself firmly and consistently to the idea of making a structure that should be beautiful and impressive in itself alone. There are no balconies, no conspicuous outlooks in fact nothing of features of that character which would give the structure the air of an observatory. It is a memorial shaft, not an observatory that the architect has devised and as such it will forever stand grand in its simplicity, beautiful in its airy gracefulness and full of dignity and repose.

LYMAN H. WEEKS.

[In Bennington (Vt.) *Banner*, August 18, 1887.]

## LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE.

August Sixteenth, 1887, will pass into history as one of the principal events in the long line of occurrences connected with Bennington. As one writer, in reviewing it, says: "The 16th day of August 1777, 1877 and 1887 mark three important and eventful epochs in the history of Bennington. One hundred and ten years ago the victory won for freedom and against British oppression, by the patriotic Benningtonians under Col. Seth Warner and his allies from Massachusetts and New Hampshire, all under Gen. John Stark, was most potential in turning the tide of war in favor of the young Republic. The celebration ten years ago of the centennial of the Battle of Bennington was a most memorable occasion. The laying of the corner stone of the Battle Monument to-day has also been a notable event. The weather was pleasant and fully 30,000 people were in town as spectators of, or participants in, the celebration."

The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells and a volley from Fuller battery encamped here. There were clouds mingled with sunshine but no rain or other circumstances to mar the comfort of the occasion. The incoming trains from all directions brought crowds of people into town. The Sir Knights in their showy and symbolic dress, the visiting military, the G. A. R. and the Odd Fellows, soon made our streets alive with organized bodies who were to make up the parade in the afternoon. The various delegations were met at the depot and escorted to their respective headquarters which had been provided at the halls of the organizations to which each belonged. The governors and their staffs were the guests of the Association and were entertained at the Putnam. The visiting military companies were the guests of the citizens of Bennington. They were cordially received and hospitably entertained. As these all came into town an inkling was obtained of what the afternoon's procession would be like. The evolutions of the Sir Knights, the marching and movements of the 32d Separate company of the New York National Guard, the fine appearance of the Berkshire boys (both cadets and Canton Colfax), together with what could be witnessed of our own uniformed troops and societies, all these seemed to take up the attention of the assembled thousands and kept them in good nature while anticipation was heightened in consequence.

### GOVERNOR'S DAY.

At ten o'clock the formalities of Governor's Day in Camp Col. Seth Warner occurred. The brigade was reviewed by Gov. Ormsbee, commander-in-chief. In this pleasant duty he was accompanied by Governors Sawyer of New Hampshire and Ames of Massachusetts who had arrived just in time to participate. The three Governors were attended as they inspected the brigade by Gen. Greenleaf and his full staff as well as by their own.

Among those invited by Gov. Ormsbee as guests (25 in all) we note Senator Edmunds, Ex-Governors Holbrook, Fairbanks, Barstow and Pingree of Vermont, State Treasurer DuBois and Secretary of State Porter, Com. E. T. Woodward, representing the Government, and many other notables. Included also were several of our prominent citizens, members of the Monument Association and the editors of the local papers. Governor's Day this year was one of great brilliancy, owing not only to the fine appearance and discipline of the brigade, but also to the presence of distinguished citizens and the overshadowing importance of what was to immediately follow. The very great improvement in the bearing of the Vermont National Guard after a few days in camp was never more noticeable than on this occasion. As the troops passed in review the breast of all Vermonters swelled with pride as they heard the compliments showered upon them by visitors from other States. As the *Banner* said at the beginning of these historic events: "The Green Mountain Boys of 1887, will take rank with those of 1861 and 1777, although each must pass into renown in their respective spheres."

### THE SOLDIERS' HOME DELIVERED.

At 11 o'clock the formalities attending the dedication of the Vermont Soldiers' Home took place.

The Governors of Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire and most of the prominent military guests, together with the militia officers and many old soldiers assembled at the Soldiers' Home where, after music, Gen. Wm. Wells, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, called the assemblage to order and intro-

duced Col. Z. M. Mansur of Island Pond, who, in behalf of the Board, addressed Gov. Ormsbee and formally delivered the property to the State of Vermont. He gave a history of its acquisition and adaptation and bespoke for it the protecting care of the State.

Governor Ormsbee accepted for the State the noble gift from the heirs of the late Hon. T. W. Park and the work of the Trustees in expending upon it the State's appropriation, and said that so far as his influence could go it would be given to promote a constant interest in the grateful benevolence thus entered upon.

Senator Edmunds was then called out and received with hearty applause. He praised the site and its beautiful surroundings and expressed his pleasure that Vermont had provided a home for the increasing number of her gallant but unfortunate sons who helped to save the country in its hours of peril and are now, with the advance of years, finding themselves unable to battle with the hardships of life. He congratulated the veterans and the State upon the good fortune and good management which had attended the founding of the home and hoped the State would make its capacity equal to the needs that may arise.

Ex-Gov. Pingree followed him and spoke of the lively appreciation that loyal Vermont has always had of her heroes. She recognizes that but for them we should not to-day have a great and free country that is the pride and praise of all people. To them the people owe a debt which can never be paid, and the least that the public can do is to see that their sufferings are made as light as possible.

This ended the speaking, but in conversation Governors Ames and Sawyer spoke of the beauty of the home and the remarkable economy with which it had been secured and adapted. It was learned from the Trustees that about fifty applications have been made for admission to it, but it will accommodate only 38, and the next legislature will have to be asked for an appropriation for additional quarters. The veterans and the Trustees spoke in equal praise of Superintendent and Mrs. Coffey.

### THE PROCESSION FORMS.

Precisely at the hour announced the grand procession formed. The *Troy Times'* special places the number in line at 3,500 and the number of Masons in town at 1,000. The Chief Marshall, Col. Hooker, and Gen. Greenleaf had agreed that the head of the column start at one o'clock whether there were anyone to fall into the rear or not. It was just at the hour when the First Brigade halted at the spot indicated below, and the procession moved down Main street. This was not altogether unanticipated by those who had witnessed, from the verandas of the Putnam and Stark houses, Col. Hooker give his orders for an hour previous. Nothing could have been seen in the streets at that hour but a dense mass of people and mounted aids moving here and there. At camp much the same order of things was apparent. Gen. Greenleaf, Col. Estey and Maj. Bond were coolly issuing their orders and awaiting the signal. When, however, the lines did move the streets were cleared as if by magic and the long and imposing column passed in review of the thousands lining both sides of the streets until the site of the monument was reached. There was no delay or break anywhere, and the procession was as well seen within a few rods of starting as farther down. It is safe to say that no finer line was ever seen in Vermont. Perhaps there have been larger numbers, at the Centennial in 1877, for instance, but none more imposing and beautiful. The town presented a holiday appearance, nearly every house and place of business on the line of march and streets upon which the formations were made, being one line of flags and other decorations. On Pleasant street the residence of Hon. A. B. Valentine, headquarters of Gov. Ormsbee, displayed a large flag tastefully hung in festoons. The waving of plumes, the flashing of swords, the glitter of shoulder straps and gilt accoutrements presented a pleasing spectacle. Space will not admit of an itemized report of the other and elaborate decorations. The Rev. J. S. Michaud displayed the National flag above the green flag of Ireland.

### THE PROCESSION

Formed at the junction of Pleasant, Union and Main streets in Bennington Village, at 12:30 p. m., and moved at 1 o'clock sharp, down Main street to Bennington Centre in the order following:

United States Marshal John Robinson, supported by two deputies.

Chief Marshal, Col. George W. Hooker.  
Henry Crosby and Walter S. Pratt, standard bearers.  
(Staff, composed of prominent citizens of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York.)

John S. Lyman, chief of staff;  
Ex-Gov. S. E. Pingree, Col. W. C. Holbrook, H. K. Ide, N. I. Hawley, J. L. Martin, Geo. S. Dowley, J. A. Taylor, Dr. Fred Pettee, Dr. H. C. Pettee, H. F. Brooks, C. F. R. Jannet, Calvin Gilson, J. T. Moore, Barney Cannon, J. H. Kidder, G. M. Russell, Frank Ray, Mills Brown, Dr. Titus, J. W. Mallendy, D. B. Goddard, Geo. A. Briggs, W. H. Minor, E. G. Frost, J. K. Batchelder, E. C. Woodward, G. W. Brownson, O. M. Barber, J. L. Cochran, Col. W. B. Wright, Col. Thad. M. Chapman, Gen. L. G. Kingsley, Capt. S. M. Dorr, Maj. Hugh H. Baxter, Trener L. Park, W. H. Bradford, Dr. B. C. Jenney, L. S. Norton, C. N. Powers, L. N. Evans, A. J. Dewey, R. G. Jennings, Maj. M. C. Holt, Col. LeGrand C. Tibbitts, H. C. Shields, Maj. W. R. Chase, Oscar A. Gassett, W. W. Bulkley, Col. A. S. Tracey, and Sidney Holmes.

First Regiment Military band, Fred C. Leitsinger, Leader, 25 pieces.

First Brigade, V. N. G., 800 men.  
Brig-Gen. William L. Greenleaf commanding.  
(Col. Julius J. Estey commanding First Regiment; Maj. Geo. H. Bond, commanding provisional battalion.)

First Regiment Military Band Drum Corps, Grand Army of the Republic, Capt. Jos. Frost, Senior Vice Department Commander and staff.

W. C. Schroeder adjutant,  
150 men in line with Custer Post, Chas. E. Graves, Post Commander. Of these were represented Post Roberts, No. 14, Rutland, E. C. Webster commanding; Post Skinner, No. 24, Manchester, John Blackmer commanding; Post Wood, No. 294, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., L. E. Worden, commanding; Post Vaughn, No. 79, Danby, W. H. Bond, commanding.

Bennington Battle Monument Association, and Committees.

Governor of Vermont and Staff,  
Representatives U. S. Government,  
Ex-Gov. Prescott, President of the Day,  
Congressmen Stewart, Orator of the Day.

#### PRELIMINARY TO THE CEREMONIES.

As the Fuller Battery reached Main street in Bennington Centre, it dashed rapidly up to the site of the old Continental storehouse where it unlimbered and fired a salute of thirteen guns, which announced the formal opening of the corner stone exercises. Seated on the speaker's platform around the monument were Ex-Gov. B. F. Prescott of New Hampshire, President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, Gov. Oliver Ames of Massachusetts, Gov. C. H. Sawyer of New Hampshire, and Gov. E. J. Ormsbee, Senator Geo. F. Edmunds, Congressman John W. Stewart, orator of the day, and Congressman William W. Grout of Vermont. A second stand was occupied by the staffs of the three Governors and by such well known Vermonters as ex-Gov. Horace Fairbanks, ex-Gov. Samuel E. Pingree, ex-Gov. John L. Barstow, ex-Gov. Frederick Holbrook, Col. B. B. Smalley, Gen. Wm. Wells, Judge H. H. Powers, Judge J. W. Rowell, Col. Franklin Fairbanks, State Treasurer DuBois, Secretary of State Porter, Secretary of Finance Page, Gen. P. P. Pitkin, Col. John C. Stearns, Hon. James K. Batchelder, Gen. T. S. Peck, Gen. William H. Gilmore, Col. Albert Clarke, Col. F. S. Stranahan, Col. William A. Crombie, Col. D. K. Hall, Col. Z. M. Mansur, Col. R. E. Hathorn, Col. De May, Interstate Commissioner A. F. Walker, Hon. Warren Gibbs, Hon. Daniel Roberts, Hon. B. D. Harris, Gen. H. K. Ide and Col. T. C. Fletcher. Upon this stand were also seated the members of the Monument Association's Board of Directors, the Building and special committees.

The platform occupied by the Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery was situated just south of the corner stone. The stone is seven feet long, three feet wide and two feet and seven inches thick, and will weigh more than five tons. The receptacle within it is two feet long, one foot wide and eight inches deep. In this receptacle was placed a copper box, and within the box were placed the articles as read by the Grand Secretary and enumerated below. Another stand had been prepared, just to the right of the second stand, on the south-east corner, and upon this the Monument Committee had provided ample accommodations for the press, the First

His Excellency Charles H. Sawyer, governor of New Hampshire, and staff.

His Excellency Oliver Ames, governor of Massachusetts, and staff.

Judges of the Vermont Supreme Court. In carriages as follows:

No. 1—Governor E. J. Ormsbee of Vermont, Ex-Gov. B. F. Prescott of New Hampshire, Col. B. B. Smalley representing United States Government, and Gen. T. S. Peck.

No. 2—Governor C. H. Sawyer and Adjutant General Ayling of New Hampshire; Governor Oliver Ames and Adjutant General Dalton of Massachusetts.

No. 3—Quartermaster General Gilmore, Lieutenant E. H. Catlin of the regular army, Inspector General Wheeler, Quartermaster General H. L. Porter of New Hampshire.

No. 4—Surgeon General Branch of Governor Ormsbee's staff, and Col. Newman and Col. Neil of Gov. Ames' staff, and Judge J. G. Bellows of New Hampshire.

No. 5—Col. F. S. Stranahan of Gov. Ormsbee's staff, Col. J. M. McIntosh, Col. R. F. Bartlett of Governor Ames' staff, and Col. A. L. Emerson of Gov. Sawyer's staff.

No. 6—Col. Wm. A. Crombie and Col. Z. M. Mansur of Gov. Ormsbee's staff, Col. W. E. Spaulding of Gov. Sawyer's staff, and Col. Richard F. Bartlett of Gov. Ames' staff.

No. 7—Col. D. K. Hall and Col. R. E. Hathorn of Gov. Ormsbee's staff, Col. S. M. Richards and Col. C. H. Wells of Gov. Sawyer's staff.

No. 8—Col. D. E. May of Gov. Ormsbee's staff and others.

Temple Military Band, Hoosick Falls, 28 pieces  
32d Separate Company, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., N. G., of New York, 88 men. Capt. C. W. Eddy, commanding.

Cadet Drum Corps.  
North Adams Cadets, Independent Company, 35 men, Capt. Harry King commanding.

Canton Colfax Drum Corps.  
Canton Colfax, No. 10, I. O. O. F., North Adams, Mass., 25 Chevaliers, Capt. P. M. Farley, commanding.

Canton Bennington, No. 4, 24 Chevaliers, Capt. N. M. Puffer, commanding.

Canton Palestine, No. 3, Brattleboro, 20 Chevaliers, Capt. E. R. Parker, commanding.

#### MASONIC DIVISION.

Eight Worshipful Thomas S. Miller, Deputy grand Marshal.  
Maschke's band, Troy, N. Y., 28 pieces, C. H. Maschke, Leader.

Taft Commandery, Bennington, G. S. Mattison, E. C., 30 men as escort.

Adoniram Lodge, No. 42, I. H. Dench, W. M., 60 men, which comprised in its ranks members of Lodges from Arlington, Pawlet and other places.

Mount Anthony Lodge, No. 13, Bennington, H. L. Stillson, W. M., 80 men, which comprised in its ranks members of lodges from No. Bennington, Pownal, Danby, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., and other towns.

Knights Templar,  
Eminent John R. Pilling, grand captain general. (With 250 Sir Knights in line. In center of line of Masonic Division was Rutland cornet band C. A. Collins leader, 18 pieces.)

Commanderies acting as escort to Grand Commandery were as follows:

Killington Commandery, No. 6, Rutland, W. F. Lewis, E. C.

Palestine, No. 5, St. Johnsbury, E. F. Griswold, E. C.  
Mt. Calvary, No. 1, Middlebury, F. N. Manchester, E. C.

Mt. Zion, No. 9, Montpelier and Northfield, J. F. Washburn, E. C.

Officers of Grand Commandery: Among whom were Sir Delos M. Bacon, R. E. Grand Commander; Sir Will F. Lewis, V. E. Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Frank H. Bascom, E. Grand Treasurer; Sir Warren G. Reynolds, E. Grand Recorder, and others.

Grand Lodge of Vermont (see Masonic procession.)  
Most Worshipful William Russell Burleigh, Grand Master of New Hampshire.

Worshipful Wm. Parkman, P. G. M., representing the Grand Master of Massachusetts.

Most Worshipful Alfred A. Hall, Grand Master of Vermont, attended by Most Worshipful Chas. H. Robinson, Grand Master of North Carolina.

Fuller Battery, Capt. Levi K. Fuller commanding.

Regiment Band and the vocalists of Bennington and Berkshire men, mentioned in the proper place below.

#### MASONIC CEREMONY.

The order of Masonic procession and ceremony used at the laying of the corner stone of the Bennington Battle Monument, August 16, was as follows:

The preliminary regulations were: The Brethren will appear dressed in black suits, with white gloves and aprons, wearing their appropriate jewels.

The grand lodge will be opened on the Third Degree, at the Hall of Mount Anthony Lodge, No. 13, and after necessary precautions are given will be called from labor.

The procession will be formed at 12:30 p. m., under the direction of Chief Marshal, Col. George W. Hooker, and will consist of Military, Civic and Masonic Divisions.

These officers of the Grand Lodge participate in the procession and ceremonies: M. W.: Alfred A. Hall, grand master; R. W.: George W. Wing, deputy grand master; R. W.: Delos M. Bacon, grand senior warden; R. W. John H. Whipple, grand junior warden; R. W. Chas. W. Whitcomb, grand treasurer; R. W. Lavant M. Read, grand secretary; W. Warren G. Reynolds, assistant grand secretary; W. Wm. J. Sperry, grand senior deacon; W. Rigney D. Marvin, grand junior deacon; W. M. Willson Johnson, grand lecturer; W. Rev. Edwin Wheelock, grand chaplain; W. Rev. Frederick S. Fisher, assistant grand chaplain; W. Harley G. Sheldon, grand marshal; W. Thomas S. Miller, deputy grand marshal; W. J. Halsey Adams, grand pursuivant; W. Eugene S. Leonard, grand sword bearer; W. Daniel C. Barber, W. Asaph T. Taft, grand stewards; W. Lafayette Soper, grand tyler; Bro. J. Ph. Rinn, principal architect; Bro. Olin Scott deputy architect and inspector.

#### THE MASONIC PROCESSION

was formed in the following order, under the direction of W. Thomas S. Miller, Deputy Marshal:

Grand Tyler, with drawn sword.  
Grand Stewards, with rods.  
Principal Architect, with square, level and plumb.  
Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer.

Bible, Square and Compasses, carried by Master of a Lodge, supported by two Stewards.

Grand Chaplain and Assistant Grand Chaplain.  
The five Orders in Architecture.  
Past Grand Wardens.

Past Deputy Grand Masters.  
Past Grand Masters.

Grand Junior Warden, carrying silver vessel with oil.

Grand Senior Warden, carrying silver vessel with wine.  
Deputy Grand Master, carrying golden vessel with corn.

Master of the oldest lodge, carrying Book of Constitutions.  
Grand Pursuivant.

Grand Master of New Hampshire, Past Grand Master Wm. Parkman of Massachusetts, representing Grand Master, and Chas. H. Robinson Grand Master of North Carolina.

M. W. Alfred A. Hall, Grand Master, and two Deacons.

Grand Sword Bearer, with drawn sword.  
Fuller Battery, Capt. Levi K. Fuller, commanding.

Templar Escort.  
(Taft Commandery, No. 8, Bennington)

Tyler, with drawn sword,  
Master Masons.

Two Deacons, with rods,  
Secretaries and Treasurers.

Past Masters.

Royal Arch Masons.

Subordinate Commanderies.

V. Em. John R. Pilling, Grand Captain General.

Grand Commandery of Vermont in form of a triangle as special escort to the Grand Lodge.

R. Em. Delos M. Bacon, Grand Commander.

Grand Lodge, under charge

of W. Harley G. Sheldon, Grand Marshal.

At noon the Battery fired a National salute of 38 guns.

The procession on arriving at the ground where the Monument is to be erected will open to the right and left, and, uncovering, the Grand Master, his officers, the Chief Magistrate, and invited guests, while the battery fires a salute of 13 guns, will pass through the lines together with the escort, and the rest of the brethren will be massed in the position assigned to them, while music is rendered by the band.

The Marshals Command, Silence!

Overture—Zampa—Herold by First Regiment Military Band Fred. C. Leitsinger, Leader.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY EX-GOV. PRESCOTT.

*Ladies and Gentlemen* :—We meet on historic ground. We formally commence a work which has long been in contemplation and long been due to the memory of the brave men who, one hundred and ten years ago to-day, on yonder field, surrounded by almost insurmountable difficulties, poorly clad and scantily equipped, without discipline or preparation, but led by heroic leaders, and with strong arms and hearts, and with a determination never before excelled, if ever equalled, won a complete victory over a well equipped, well disciplined, and well officered invading army all admit was one of the most decisive battles of the Revolutionary war. The monument here to be erected is to commemorate that event, and will forever stand as a witness to the bravery and patriotism of the participants in that struggle. The corner stone to this towering structure is now to be laid by the Grand Lodge of Free Masons of the State of Vermont, who have been invited to perform that interesting and time-honored ceremony. I now introduce the Most Worshipful Alfred A. Hall, Grand Master, who will proceed to the duty assigned him.

RESPONSE BY GRAND MASTER HALL.

In accepting the task of laying the corner stone Grand Master Hall very happily alluded to this historic spot where stood the first orator of Bennington's Battle anniversary (as well as the first Grand Master of this Grand Lodge) on the memorable day of August 16th, 1778. He accepted the labor and proceeded:

Grand Master.—No man or body of men should enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the Blessing of Deity. You will therefore attend while prayer is offered by the Grand Chaplain.

PRAYER.

*Father*, we come from far and from near to lay the corner stone of this monument which is to commemorate the deeds of the fathers. May it speak of courage and love of country to the remotest posterity and be a perpetual reminder to the incoming millions of this great land, of the blessings of God on a virtuous and intelligent people, who walk uprightly and speak the truth in their hearts and lay their institutions in righteousness, that they may be more enduring than this granite and never fail. Merciful Father, grant, we most humbly beseech Thee, that being united in the bonds of a free and just Government, and in a valor that never falters in the day of trial, and in all the tender ties of humanity, we may also be united, as one vast and godly nation, in the stronger bonds that can never be broken, the love of God, the grace of Christ, the communion of the Holy Spirit, and the presence of angels, arch-angels holding their banner of love and protection over us evermore and evermore. And long may we continue to exist, as a beautiful and holy country, sharing in the joys of bountiful prosperity and the honors, purity and truth, until we are all transfigured into the sweet delights and reunions of Heaven, through Him who has loved us and hitherto guided us, and unto whom be praise and glory and honor world without end. Amen.

Response—So mote it be.

Grand Master.—Brother Grand Senior Warden, the Grand Lodge of Vermont having been invited to lay the corner stone of the Monument to be here erected in commemoration of the victory achieved by the patriots of the Revolution, August 16th, 1777, it is my order that the Grand Lodge do now proceed to the performance of that most important ceremony. Communicate this order to the Grand Junior Warden and he to the craft for their government.

Grand Senior Warden.—Brother Grand Junior Warden, it is the order of the M. W. Grand Master, that the corner stone of the Monument here to be erected, be now laid with Masonic honors. Communicate this order to the craft for their government.

Grand Junior Warden.—Brethren, it is the order of the M. W. Grand Master, that the corner stone of the Monument here to be

erected be now laid with Masonic honors. Take notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Grand Master.—I declare the Grand Lodge ready to proceed with the ceremony.

MUSIC.

“What Shines so Bright,” by Kreutzer.

Double male quartette. Messrs. Edwin Humphrey (Adams, Mass.) and H. I. Norton (of Bennington), tenors; Merritt B. Morgan, Albert MacDonald, 2d tenors; H. L. Hover, Hubert Downs, 1st bass; E. A. Booth (of Bennington), Fred A. Flagg (of Boston) 2d bass. This choir rendered all the vocal music of the occasion. Dr. A. S. M. Chisholm was the leader.

Grand Master.—Brother Grand Secretary, you will read a list of the contents of the box to be placed in the corner stone for the benefit of future generations.

Grand Secretary.—Obeys as follows:

Holy Bible, Gov Hall's Early History of Vermont, Rev. Isaac Jenning's Memorials of a Century, Rev. Isaac Jenning's Historical Account relating to the Battle Monument, Manuscript copy of the contract for the erection of the Monument, Biographical Encyclopedia 19th Century, Vermont; Copies Bennington BANNER, newspaper; Copies Bennington Reformer, newspaper; other Vermont newspapers, Troy and New York newspapers, Printed laws relating to Monument, Battle of Bennington and Vermont Centennial, Forbes' Vermont Centennial, History of Odd Fellowship, Report of Masonic Grand Lodge of Vermont, 1887; Official programme of laying corner stone, August 16th, 1887; Masonic ceremonies laying corner stone, Vermont, Bennington Centennial Memorial Medal, Bank notes of the Banks in Bennington, Copper coins, Brigade order and roster, regimental order from Adjutant General's office for muster of 1887. Of the above the medal was contributed by Dr. C. P. Thayer of Boston, Mass.; copper coins by Thos. S. Miller of St. Albans and Mrs. S. M. Sibley. She also presented the Farmer's Almanac. The history of Odd Fellowship was written by H. L. Stillson and donated for this purpose by Vermont Grand Lodge. Copy of BANNER contained cut of monument and Record History written by Chas. M. Bliss. Mr. Jennings' Historical Account was in manuscript.

Grand Master.—Brothers Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, you will superintend the placing of the box in the proper receptacle.

[Done.]

Hymn, “America,” double quartette, band joining.

My country, 't is of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,

Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee—  
Land of the noble free—  
Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills  
Like that above.

Our fathers' God! to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing:  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King!

Grand Master.—Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brothers you will assist me in superintending the placing of the corner stone.

Grand Master.—Brother Grand Marshal, you will see that the Craftsmen lower the Stone in accordance with Masonic form.

Solemn music will be rendered by the band; the Stone will be lowered with three distinct pauses, the public grand honors being given by the members of the Grand Lodge at each pause, and a gun by the battery at each event.

The Principal Architect presents the square, level and plumb to the Grand Master, who presents them to the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden.

Grand Master.—R. W. Deputy Grand Master, what is the jewel of your office?

Deputy Grand Master.—The Square.

Grand Master.—What are its Moral and Masonic uses?

Deputy Grand Master.—To square our actions by the square of virtue and prove our work.

Grand Master.—Apply the implement of your office to that portion of the foundation stone that needs to be proved and make report.

(Done.)

Deputy Grand Master.—Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be square; the Craftsmen have done their duty.

Grand Master.—R. W. Grand Senior Warden, what is the jewel of your office?

Grand Senior Warden.—The level.

Grand Master.—What are its Moral and Masonic uses?

Grand Senior Warden.—Morally it reminds us of equality and its use is to try horizontals.

Grand Master.—Apply the implement of your office to the foundation stone and make report.

(Done.)

Grand Senior Warden.—Most Worshipful, I find the stone to be level; the Craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master.—R. W. Grand Junior Warden, what is the jewel of your office?

Grand Junior Warden.—The plumb.

Grand Master.—What are its Moral and Masonic uses?

Grand Junior Warden.—Morally it teaches Rectitude of Conduct and we use it to try perpendiculars.

Grand Master.—Apply the implement of your office to the several edges of the foundation stone and make report.

(Done.)

Grand Junior Warden.—Most Worshipful, I find that the stone is plumb and the Craftsmen have performed their duty.

Grand Master.—Most Worshipful Brothers, the Grand Master of Massachusetts and the Grand Master of New Hampshire, are you satisfied with the several reports?

Grand Masters of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.—We are.

Grand Master.—The Corner Stone has been tested by the proper implements of Masonry, I find that the Craftsmen have skillfully and faithfully performed their duty, and I do declare the Stone well formed, true and trusty, and correctly laid according to our Ancient Craft. (Volley fired by the battery.)

#### CONSECRATION HYMN.

(Adapted.)

Music by Dr. Cutler.

Father of life and light,  
Our hearts in love unite  
To sing Thy praise.  
Thou who in darkness spoke,  
And light from chaos broke,  
We here Thy aid invoke;  
Guide all our ways.

Bend from Thy Heavenly throne,  
And on this Corner Stone,  
Which here we lay,  
Grant that a column fair  
By Level, Plumb and Square  
May rise in beauty rare,  
To grace the day.

That here in Bennington,  
Where heroes won renown  
And bravely fought,  
This monument may stand  
A beacon in the land—  
Majestically planned,  
And nobly wrought.

(Elements of consecration were presented as follows: Corn, by H. W. Putnam, Esq., wine, by H. S. Brown, from grapes grown near the site of the Monument 20 years ago; oil, by Dr. H. C. Day.)

Grand Master.—Let the Elements of Consecration now be presented.

The Deputy Grand Master scatters corn upon the stone, saying:

Deputy Grand Master.—I pour this corn as an emblem of plenty. May the blessing of bounteous Heaven be showered upon us and upon all like patriotic undertakings and inspire the hearts of the people with virtue, wisdom and gratitude.

Response.—So mote it be.

HYMN.—Tune, Hamburg.  
When once of old in Israel,  
Our early Brethren wrought with toil,  
Jehovah's blessings on them fell,  
In showers of corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Senior Warden pours wine upon the stone, saying:

Grand Senior Warden.—I pour this wine as an emblem of joy and gladness. May the Great Ruler of the Universe bless and prosper our National, State and Municipal Governments, preserve the friendship and brotherly love that shall endure through all time.

Response.—So mote it be.

(Second Stanza.)

When there a Shrine to Him alone,  
They built, with worship sin to foil,  
On threshold and on corner stone  
They poured out corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Junior Warden pours oil upon the stone, saying:  
Grand Junior Warden.—I pour this oil as an emblem of peace. May its blessings abide with us continually, and may the Grand

Master of Heaven and earth shelter and protect the widow and orphan, shield and defend them from the trials and vicissitudes of the world, and so bestow His mercy upon the bereaved and afflicted and sorrowing, that they may know sorrowing and trouble no more.

Response.—So mote it be.

(Third Stanza.)

And we have come, fraternal hands,  
With joy and pride and prosperous spoil,  
To honor Him by votive hands,  
With streams of corn and wine and oil.

The Grand Master strikes the stone three times with the gavel, saying:

Grand Master.—In the name of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Vermont, I do dedicate this Corner Stone to Virtue, (one gun) Loyalty, (one gun) and Patriotism, (one gun) and may Heaven's most gracious blessing rest upon the noble work here begun and bring it to a speedy and successful termination.

#### ADDRESS OF THE GRAND MASTER.

In concluding the Masonic ceremony, M. W. Alfred A. Hall, spoke in substance, as follows:

*Mr. President, Your Excellency, and Gentlemen:*—Here on this consecrated ground, a little more than a century ago, Noah Smith, fresh from collegiate honors at Yale, pronounced the first commemorative address. A few years later, after having ascended the ladder of judicial fame in this state, he assisted in forming the Grand Lodge of Vermont, and was its first Grand Master, holding the office and discharging its duties with credit to himself and honor to the fraternity from 1794 to 1797.

It seems peculiarly fitting that the Grand Lodge he labored to establish should be called upon to lay the corner stone of a monument that so long as granite shall endure will stand in perpetual commemoration of the deeds of patriotism and valor exhibited on this historic field, and by symbolic lesson teach the millions to come after us duty, loyalty and heroism.

From time immemorial, at the request of emperors and kings, priests and laymen, republics, states and municipalities, the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons has performed this service; the line of Masonic history in the Old World and the New is dotted with similar occasions; in our own country we have the notable example of the President of the United States assisted by his own Lodge, and the Grand Lodge of Maryland, laying the corner stone of the first Capitol in Washington in 1793.

Masons ever mindful of their connection with operative masonry have been encouragers and promoters of the art, and have assisted by contribution, influence and ceremony in making possible and impressive the erection and dedication of temples, pyramids and monumental piles for grand and noble purposes.

To-day it is our pleasure and our pride to join the citizens of this commonwealth, not only as masons but citizens as well, in laying the foundation of a monument that is to mark one of the grandest achievements of the Revolution.

In the emphatic language of Brother Smith it may truthfully be said that "to the effects of this action must be attributed in a considerable degree the series of successes that subsequently attended our arms." And how truthfully were his prophetic words [1778]: "This establishes our independence and must soon put a period to the calamities of war." Standing in the immediate presence of the fruits of that engagement he fully recognized the debt of gratitude due to those who had accomplished such a victory, and commenting further says: Are these the effects of the Battle of Bennington? Are these the prospects which attend the Republic of America? Then what laurels are due to Stark and those bold asserters of liberty whose determined resolution and undaunted courage effected the salvation of our country?"

To-day we stand as a free and joyous people in the full enjoyment of all that his prophetic language could foretell. Well may the deeds of those patriot heroes be chiseled in enduring granite set up as a mile-stone along the highway that leads to the goal of liberty.

While Masonry finds its field of usefulness in the cultivation of the mind and the inculcation of moral principles grand as the Fatherhood of God and universal as the Brotherhood of man; and by the immutable principles of Truth and Justice, Virtue and Charity, seeks to make men, wiser, nobler, happier, impressing its lessons by esoteric and exoteric, and symbolic teachings, it does not fail to recognize the duty every citizen owes to his country and insists upon a loyal discharge of every service that the state imposes.

From Washington to Garfield, patriots, statesmen, scholars, men of every rank and station, while loving country none the less, and serving in its foremost ranks have joined our Institution in its great and noble work of benefiting mankind.

In every work that tends to heighten the moral standard, in every effort to alleviate the suffering and distressed, in every scheme for placing upon perpetual record deeds of daring and acts of heroism in the cause of justice, truth and virtue, masons are the co-adjutors and earnest supporters. We recognize this as being a work entitled to our heartiest support as men and masons.

*May it Please Your Excellency:* We have performed the task assigned us in accordance with the ancient ceremony of our order. We ask you to inspect the work and if approved to receive it at our hands. That it may be carried forward with expedition and success, and that the imposing column here to be erected, pointing its grand and noble apex heavenward shall say in language more eloquent than words: A tribute of Americans to American valor, and of Vermonters to Vermont patriotism, is the earnest wish of eight thousand mason citizens of this state.

Grand Master.—Brother Grand Marshal, you will invite His Excellency, the Governor of the state of Vermont, to inspect the work performed by us and if approved to receive it at our hands. (Salute of 14 guns.)

The Governor inspects the work and receives it with appropriate remarks as follows:

GOV. ORMSBEE'S ADDRESS.

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Master:*

SIR:—To you and the Brotherhood of Masons of Vermont was assigned the honorable duty of laying the corner stone of this proposed structure, an undertaking conceived in patriotism and love of country, and born in the gratitude of our people for the deeds of self denial and daring of our ancestors in the cause of liberty, and freedom of thought and action, and in the pursuit of a higher manhood, and an effort to free themselves from a foreign control, both tyrannous and unjust.

The cause for which our fathers fought, suffered and died, was indeed a glorious one even in failure, but when we contemplate the beneficent results, and elevating and ennobling consequences attending and following their success, it becomes so to an extent far exceeding measure or expression; and much more might be said in enlarging upon the deeds of our hardy and heroic ancestry, which to commemorate and keep alive this monument is erected, but that is not within my province and to go farther would intrench upon the field of another.

Sir:—To you and to the ancient and honored order of Masonry has been deputed a sacred and highly honorable duty, as the corner stone is laid well—so shall the structure be completed, and stand against the skies, towering above these everlasting hills, in defiance of wind and storm, a beacon light to the people of the far-off future, as they shall struggle to perpetuate the Government of our fathers, a perpetual reminder to them of their obligations to their ancestors; a warning should they perchance ever waver or weary in the performance of their duties to State and Nation. That this duty has been well performed I entertain no doubt; that the undertaking upon which you have this hour placed your ancient and honored seal of devotion, and have sanctioned by your ancient rites and ceremonies, shall go on to completion we have great promise and assurance, not the least of which is founded upon the part you have this day performed. A good deed well performed has its own reward; better and far more abiding than words of thankfulness or praise however well deserved—in addition to this, you have, I am sure, the heartfelt approval of the several thousands of our people from far and near. To this approving presence I point you for evidence of such appreciative gratitude as my words would fail to express, should I presume so to do.

And now, sir, in the name of the State of Vermont, I receive this work so auspiciously begun, from your hands. I thus receive it not alone for the State of Vermont, but also for and in behalf of our sister Commonwealths, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, who have made such liberal contribution to the cause in memory of their sons who have sealed the cause of freedom and liberty with their blood; and also for and in behalf of the General Government which has by more than liberal aid espoused the cause here commemorated, and thereby given to it a National character, and securing to all of her sixty millions of people a common property and interest in this offering to patriotism, this monument to the bravery and heroism of the never to be forgotten Allen, Stark and Warner, and their brave and devoted followers.

And I should be remiss in acting my pleasure if not in the performance of my duty, should I fail to here and now, to make entitled recognition of our obligation to, and to pay just tribute of thankfulness to our sister States, and the United States, for the interest manifested in and for the material aid, furnished to this undertaking, and therefore as the executive of the State of Vermont, and in behalf of her people, I tender to them through their honored and honorable representatives who have so nobly come to us this day to pay further devotion by their presence and and to give increased value to the gifts that had preceded them, and our warmest and most earnest thanks.

And having thus accepted the well laid foundation work of this monument to both valor and patriotism, from your hands I now transfer it to the Bennington Battle Monument Association for completion.

*Gentlemen of the Association:* Upon you is now conferred a great responsibility. You are the chosen, trusted servants of the State upon whom now rests the duty of taking up this work and carrying it on to completion. In the performance of your duties you are not alone the servants of Vermont, but also the custodians and trustees of the funds of the General Government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the State of New Hampshire. The honor and good faith of the State is pledged that this work shall proceed without delay, that it shall be completed as it has been begun, with stability and enduring qualities; this honor and good faith is also in your keeping. We expect that you will give to this undertaking your individual and collective care and watchfulness and that under your supervision and direction the work will go on from base to apex, until we shall see before us completed and wholly finished such a structure as your design calls for without blemish or defect, and in keeping with the foundation before us. This we have a right to expect; less than this will grieve and disappoint us. In full trust and confidence I now commit this work to your hands.

MUSIC.

"Praise of the Soldier," by Bouldieu.

Acceptance of work by Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, President of the Day, on behalf of the Association.

GOV. PRESCOTT'S ACCEPTANCE.

*Your Excellency:*—As President of the Bennington Battle Monument Association and in its behalf, I accept from you, the Chief Magistrate of Vermont, this corner stone with its historic contents, now so well and appropriately laid. In doing this I feel that an important work has been well begun, and that the people of this republic will rejoice to know that an additional honor is to be paid to the patriots of the Revolution, who freely gave their lives for the establishment of the best government on earth.

The Association, under the supervision of the chief architect; will erect upon this imperishable foundation a monument, beautiful and artistic in design, massive in structure, which shall, in the coming ages, mark one of the most important localities in our land; made sacred by the blood and sacrifices of our heroic countrymen.

By the liberality of the States of Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and the General Government, which was made possible by the result of this battle, and the generosity of liberal and patriotic citizens, this monument is to be erected.

On that memorable day, August 16th, 1777; without pre-arranged plans, in the heat of the battle, amid the groans of the wounded and dying, and over the prostrate forms of their fallen and dead comrades, the self sacrificing patriots of New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts helped lay the corner stone of this free and enlightened republic which has stood a century and now commands the respect, and has secured the admiration of enlightened mankind everywhere.

We meet to-day to lay the corner stone of a monument which shall forever commemorate that event; and may it when completed remain as long as the work of man shall endure; and may all who behold it in coming centuries be inspired with increased devotion to their country which confers such inestimable blessings upon its people.

History records the valor of men. When Leonidas led the Spartan band and held the pass of Thermopylae against the invading army of Xerxes, in which struggle he sacrificed his own life, and the immortal three hundred under his command expired on the field, they showed no more valor, displayed no loftier heroism than John Stark and the immortal heroes under his command, who checked the march and successfully defeated an invading army upon this territory. Every soldier under him would have yielded his life had the occasion demanded it.

Our Republic is not ungrateful or unmindful of its obligation to those who established it and those who have defended it, and to you veterans in the last great struggle in defense of the Constitution and the inseparability of these States we owe a debt of gratitude we can never repay. You all have however the satisfaction of knowing that you preserved the best Government on earth against the blow aimed at its existence, and now, with the largest liberty, enjoy the blessings it confers.

This monument will be erected in honor of the mothers as well as the fathers of the Revolution. When in those eventful and trying times the wives and mothers in the valley of the Merimack, and along those beautiful hillsides and upon the Berkshire hills of Massachusetts gave their husbands and sons a parting embrace, and bade them Godspeed to protect their homes against a ruthless and hostile invasion for the purpose of subjugation and booty; when they placed their infants under the shade trees, while they reaped and harvested the grain, and offered up to God their prayers for the safe return of their loved ones and for the success of their arms, they displayed a heroism unsurpassed in the history of the world. If such do not deserve a monument at the hands of a grateful posterity to preserve their memory and patriotism, pray tell who on earth does.

*Gentlemen,* I have the honor to present to you the orator of this day, the Hon. John W. Stewart.

ORATION BY THE HON. JOHN W. STEWART, M. C.

One hundred and ten years ago, this hour, a little band of hardy pioneers, our fathers, kindred and countrymen were very busy on yonder hill-side clearing the track for the on-coming of the great republic. They were men of action; and the time for action had come. Petition for redress, remonstrance against wrong, protest argument, expostulation, had all been tried and had failed, and the question between the colonies and the mother country had come to the dread arbitrament of war; and on that fateful day England sent her Hessian hirelings, with their tory and savage allies to lay waste and pillage the peaceful homes which patient thrift had made in this beautiful valley. The brave pioneers met them on the border, nor did they await attack. Their defence was in attack, and all that long day they confronted the disciplined invaders and they fought as brave men fight for home and family and country, while in many a home within rifle-shot of where we stand were gathered the mothers, sisters, wives and children of the defenders, awaiting with beating and anxious hearts the issue of the battle and news of the loved ones who were braving its perils. Who can describe the awful suspense of that day to these families as they listen to the distant roar of the deadly guns? But the night draws on, and the day is won, and so becomes one of the most memorable in American history.

We gather on this anniversary day to lay the corner stone of a monument which shall fitly commemorate this great event, known in our history as the battle of Bennington.

Suffer me to congratulate the officers and members of the monument association to whose indefatigable efforts such success is due that to-day witnesses the initial ceremony which is the sure prelude of the final dedication, soon to follow, of a completed memorial which shall fully realize the patriotic hope so long deferred.

When or by whom the project of erecting a monument commemorative of this battle was first definitely proposed, I do not know. No doubt many a reader of early American history, as he has dwelt upon this, one of its most striking and dramatic events, has thought that it deserved a worthy memorial. It is enough, however, for this occasion to say that the project first took organized form and action under the charter granted by our legislature in 1876. Among the active managers of the association since its organization under the charter may be found the names of several of the Governors of this state, of the state of New Hampshire and of the state of Massachusetts.

Notwithstanding the fact that ten years have elapsed since the association was organized, I yet venture to congratulate its officers upon the expedition made and the early success which has crowned their efforts. All experience in these matters has shown that, save when undertaken and carried forward by the government, indefinite time is required. In December, 1799, both houses of Congress adopted a resolution for the erection of a monument to commemorate the great events of the military and political life of Washington, and yet the corner stone was not laid until 1848 and it was not completed until 1885 and never would have been had not Congress in the centennial year 1876 resolved: "In the name of the people of the United States to assume and direct the completion of the Washington monument in the city of Washington."

Since its organization, the association and its friends have been unremitting in their efforts to raise necessary funds, secure a proper

design and mature plans for the earliest practicable accomplishment of the patriotic end in view, to wit, the erection of an imposing memorial structure at Bennington. As it was by the united and voluntary action of the yeomanry of the colonies of New Hampshire and Massachusetts and the then independent State of Vermont that the eventful victory we celebrate was won, so it seemed eminently proper that those States should severally unite in making contribution to the erection of such memorial. Accordingly the subject was presented to the legislatures of those States respectively, and met from each a prompt and generous response. This State contributed the larger sum, \$15,000, and properly so, considering the question of the locality of the event and of its proposed memorial. Massachusetts contributed \$7,500 and New Hampshire \$5,000. The aggregate of the sums was increased by private subscription from all parts of the country to the sum of \$40,000. The 46th Congress of the United States supplemented this sum by appropriating an equal amount, which has been paid into the treasury of the association and is now available for its purposes. The total amount thus raised and pledged is \$80,000. This State has recently, in 1886, made a further appropriation of \$10,000 for the purchase of a suitable site and grounds for the monument. It need not be supposed that so much has been accomplished without much patient and persistent effort on the part of those charged with the duty of raising funds. The usual hindrances and delays which beset such schemes have been met and successfully overcome. No little delay and perplexity has been occasioned by differences of opinion as to the proper design for the monument—in such cases never a subject upon which views easily meet. Artists and connoisseurs often differ widely as to the fitness of a given design. One declares in favor of an elaborate and mystic symbolism, unintelligible to the common mind without a key. Another prefers a design distinguished by mere beauty of form, delicacy of outline and dainty artistic conception and finish; while perhaps a third, underrating or insensible to the charm of beautiful form and graceful outline, would prefer a shapeless boulder symbolizing nothing save endurance. From the number of designs submitted by different artists, the Association selected after careful deliberation the one designed by Mr. J. Ph. Rinn of Boston. It is believed that this design meets every required demand. Its realized embodiment, standing upon solid rock, will rise, graceful in outline, massive and majestic in proportion, to the imposing height of 300 feet; its summit commanding a view of the scenes so memorable. So standing, it will commend itself to the eye and judgment of future beholders as a fitting memorial and symbol, both of the great event it is designed to commemorate and the grand and heroic character of the men whose valor on that August day, so long ago, made possible the two victories at Stillwater and the surrender at Saratoga in the succeeding October. And this brings me to notice very briefly the historical significance of the Battle of Bennington and the bearing it had directly upon the fate of Burgoyne's expedition, and more remotely, though not less certainly, upon the result of the then pending struggle between the colonies and the mother country. I am not unaware that this is a well-worn theme. The story of the battle, in which so many of the citizens of this county took part, is as familiar as a household word. Indeed 'Bennington Battle' are to them household words.

The story has been oft told by sire to son and grandsire to wondering grand-children gathered at his knee. It was from these homes about us that so many went out to meet and stay the invader. It is in many of these peaceful homes that their kindred and descendants now live. Here, too, annually, as the years since 1777 have flown, the dwellers in this region have gathered and by appropriate ceremonies observed the anniversary of victory and deliverance.

It has been to them almost as sacred as the annual feast of the passover to the Jews. At each recurring anniversary the story has been rehearsed anew. It has been a theme fruitful of impassioned oratory and an inspiration to the poet, and it has been embalmed by the historian. What can I say more, or other, or better, than that has been spoken and written by your own, nay, *our* own, honored citizen, the late Gov. Hall, whose interest in, and whose knowledge of the early history of this region was unmatched. We miss indeed, his venerable and benignant presence here to-day, a day which more than any other he longed to see; and yet the impress and impulse and inspiration of his spirit has been felt at every step in the progress of this Association, and abides with us to-day.

I recall also the wise caution as to brevity in the invitation extended to me by your committee, but the occasion seems to demand, within the prescribed limits, a brief sketch of the situation just prior to the battle and notice of the effect of the victory, both direct and remote.

The summer of 1777 was a season of gloom and depression in the American colonies. They were scattered, incoherent and with-

out funds and appliances adequate to cope successfully with the rich and powerful mother country. The Tories were exultant. The timid were halting between two. The leaders were despondent. Burgoyne's formidable expedition, planned in London for the purpose of cutting off New England from the other colonies, was making its apparently resistless way southward to its goal. On the 6th of July he captured Ticonderoga and on the next day he struck and routed at Hubbardton the rear guard of our retreating army. At this critical moment, when Burgoyne's success seemed most assured, the Council of Safety, then the provisional government of Vermont, appealed to Massachusetts and New Hampshire for aid in repelling invasion of the western border thus left open and defenceless.

Right nobly did these colonies respond to the call, and "Ho, to the Borders" rang through the hills of New Hampshire and was echoed along the valleys of Berkshire and Worcester. John Stark with his stalwart men from the granite hills came marching across the mountains, and Col. Simonds rallied the men of Berkshire, among whom was the maternal grandfather of the speaker; and Warner and Herrick and Williams and Brush came also with their Vermonters, among them the paternal grandfather of the speaker.

Gen. Stark with his brigade reached Bennington on the 9th of August. It was on the 15th of the previous month that the Vermont Council of Safety had addressed the executives of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and thus promptly had New Hampshire responded. Gen. Stark had already earned reputation as colonel at Bunker Hill and under Washington at Trenton and Princeton, and was a man of great force and courage. His instructions from the president of New Hampshire upon setting out on this expedition curiously illustrates the *quasi* independence of the colonies at that time. They were: "To repair to Charlestown No. 4," and, when the troops were collected there, "to take command of them and march into the State of Vermont and there act in conjunction with the troops of that State or any other of the States, or of the United States, or separately, as it should appear expedient to him for the protection of the people or the annoyance of the enemy." Never was discretionary power more wisely bestowed. The result justified the confidence reposed in General Stark, although the order was criticised severely as subversive of military discipline. Burgoyne had at this time reached the Hudson river, his progress having been retarded by natural obstacles and obstructions interposed by the scattering force of Americans which hung along his flank and front in the wilderness through which he marched. He at this time needed supplies and means of transportation, and his object in detaching Baum and sending him to Bennington was to capture the stores there gathered in considerable quantities for the use of Gen. Schuyler's army. But the hastily rallied pioneers were there before him, and, my fellow-citizens, never was there a more grand, spontaneous uprising of a brave, noble race of men in defence of a holy cause—home, country, freedom, everything which makes life dear or worth living.

On August 14th, Baum had reached a point about six miles from Bennington and had captured a large quantity of wheat and flour at Sancoik mill. From here he wrote a dispatch to Burgoyne, that about 1800 militia were in his front, which would leave at his approach; of which another has wittily said, "They did leave, but took Baum's whole army along with them." On the night of the 14th Baum entrenched his army in a strong position. On the 15th it rained. On the 16th Stark attacked the entrenched and disciplined troops on all sides. They made a brave defence, but were nearly all killed or taken prisoners. Immediately after the battle was over, Col. Breyman, sent to reinforce Baum with five or six hundred men, was observed approaching, with whom a second battle was fought, continuing until sunset, when the enemy fled, leaving his artillery and escaping in the darkness. About 700 of the enemy were captured and 207 men killed.

Gov. Hall, in his "Early History of Vermont," says: "The injury to the enemy by this disaster can scarcely be overstated. It was not confined to his actual losses of men and munitions of war, though these were of considerable importance. This victory was the first check given to the triumphant march of Burgoyne from Canada and was an unexpected example of a successful assault by undisciplined militia, armed with muskets without bayonets, upon an entrenched camp of veteran troops defended by cannon." In a private letter to the British minister in London, written four days after the battle, Burgoyne says, "Had I succeeded I should have effected a junction with St. Leger, and been now before Albany." In the same letter he pays his respects to the people of Vermont in the following words: "The New Hampshire Grants in particular, a country unpeopled in the last war, now abounds in the most active and most rebellious of the continent, and hangs like a gathering storm on my left." We can hardly overestimate the effect of this victory upon the then desparate cause of the colonies. Such effective fight-

ing by raw militia against entrenched veterans astounded and disheartened the enemy. The news flew over the land and thrilled all hearts with joy, renewed flagging hope, inspired fresh confidence in the prowess of our army and in our ultimate triumph. Says Gen. Hawley in his report to the House of Representatives of the 46th Congress, recommending the appropriation already mentioned: "This brilliant victory of New England yeomen over disciplined forces aroused every section of the country to renewed effort, re-inforced the northern army by the thousands, and thus ensured the success of the Saratoga battles, resulting in the capitulation of Burgoyne and his whole army. Consequent on this was the French alliance, the importance of which to the final result is a matter of history. To the Bennington battle, then, one of the most brilliant in the annals of the war of the Revolution must be therefore largely accorded the achievement of the independence of America." It is curious to notice how necessary to this grand result seems each successive link in this chain of cause and effect.

If Baum had taken the needed supplies to Burgoyne's army, its triumphant march to Albany would have been speedy and certain. The recruits to our army, then needed for effectual resistance to Burgoyne's advance, would have staid at home. The French alliance, without which the achievement of independence would have been impossible in the face of such disaster and general discouragement, would not have been effected. But this is not a time for speculation or conjecture. Our fathers *did* rally and stand here, like a wall of consuming fire, against the invading host, and their rally and battle and victory will forever stand in American history as one of the most dramatic and eventful episodes recorded on its pages.

Probably few, if any, of those engaged in the battle began to measure the momentous consequences which hung upon its issue. It seemed to them simply a struggle for the capture or retention of a quantity of supplies, and so far important, but the far reaching consequences of the result could not then be foreseen. Our fathers "builded better than they knew." We estimate the value of their service in the light of subsequent events. But their want of foreknowledge does not detract in the slightest degree from the moral quality of their action. That lies in their ready, unselfish loyalty to a perilous duty, and their prompt response to its call at the risk of life itself.

No race of men ever trod this planet who more than they revered and respected rightful authority, divine and human, and it was the rightness and righteous exercise of authority which commanded their respect and allegiance. Its abuse they knew was outside the functions of government and therefore intolerable.

The committee of the convention at Westminster in 1777 enunciate the principle thus: "Whenever protection was withheld by a government no allegiance was due or could of right be demanded."

The pioneers in this region were not unwilling to submit to the colonial jurisdiction of New York, but could not and never would suffer unjust evictions of lands granted by an officer of the crown and redeemed to uses of civilization by years of patient toil and hardship.

In common with other colonists, they would have remained in willing allegiance to the English government had the latter respected and secured to them those natural rights which are the gift of God and not of governments.

These men saw clearly the true functions of government, and so gave new meaning to the term patriotism. Love of country is instinctive and universal, and men have died for country in every age, but in every age until the English revolution, government and country have been convertible terms, and human history is not a history of the people, but almost to our time a continuous record of the follies and crimes and oppressions committed by kings and princes and nobles.

The great teacher and Saviour of the race declared the rights and dignity of the individual man, as man, nineteen centuries ago; but the grand truth was never recognized and formulated by any civil government, until, more than 1200 years later, the great charter of English liberty was wrung from a reluctant king. For centuries afterward it was practically disregarded, but the seed sown in men's hearts slowly germinated and grew and became the tree of liberty under which our fathers gathered and which they watered with their blood.

Did time serve I might dwell upon the personal characteristics of the men who then dwelt in this region—of their manly fortitude in time of trial, of the wisdom and moderation which marked their deliberations, of the courage with which they confronted all adversaries, of their respect for rightful authority and their hatred of its abuse. I might tell how they braved the dangers of the frontier forest and subdued it to the uses of advancing civilization, whose banner they bore; how civil order prevailed among them while yet there was no organized power, legislative, executive or judicial, by which those

functions could be exercised, and yet such was the self-governing capacity of these pioneers, for the most part plain farmers, that under the most trying emergencies and without any of the ordinary appliances which pertain to government in the maintenance of private rights and public rights and public order, they held both secure, and at the same time without stint gave of their scanty means, and offered themselves a ready sacrifice in support of the common cause, of all which Ticonderoga, Hubbardton, Bennington and Saratoga will stand as witnesses forever.

They were no carpet knights, nor plumed cavaliers playing fantastic tricks of knight errantry. They were grim fighters, and they fought in their every-day clothes; but as they stood on that long summer day in deadly conflict with the hirelings of a half-demented king, who madly flung away the brightest jewel in his crown, every brave heart 'neath the yeoman's jacket beat with the loftiest inspiration of a courage born of faith in God and in his eternal principles of justice and in deathless devotion to country. Every patriot bullet was winged and instinct with this inspiration. While love of country flamed in their hearts, that word, country, meant far more to them than it did to the Greeks at Marathon. To them country stood for the people, secure in all natural rights and all the social and civil free institutions essential to their preservation. They scorned kingly and priestly and lordly and every form of class privilege and prerogative. They were living epistles of a new faith. They were yeomen, they were warriors, they were statesmen. They were fit founders of a new system of government so well epitomized by the immortal Lincoln as a "Government of the people, for the

people, by the people" In this faith they lived, and for its triumphant establishment they fought and conquered on yonder hillside. The honor of their grand achievement is the glorious inheritance of the three New England States represented here to-day, from whose valleys and hillsides their patriotic sons, leaving wife and child and quiet home and peaceful pursuits so swiftly rallied at the call of country. The fruits of their victory are the common heritage of the whole country for all time to come. Their heroic example is for mankind. The law of the conservation of force prevails in the moral as in the physical world. Nothing is lost. The heroic life or heroic death in a just cause though apparently hopeless, will some time bear rich harvest in reconversion into successful heroic action inspired by example. Such was the event and such the character of of the actors therein, in reverent memory of which we are met on this anniversary day to perform this initial ceremony. We begin now the erection of a majestic and enduring memorial which shall in some degree symbolize our conception of an event so fraught with great results, and wrought, too, by an ancestry whose heroic character and achievement must forever challenge our admiration and gratitude.

Let it rise majestic here, girt by these grand mountains, commanding views of unmatched natural beauty and overlooking the graves of the heroic dead. And so may it stand a mute but eloquent witness and memorial to all coming generations of the battle of Bennington and of the valor and virtue of the men who crowned the day, whose anniversary we celebrate, with glorious victory.

Benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Isaac Jennings.

## RECORD HISTORY OF THE MONUMENT.

[COMPILED BY CHARLES M. BLISS.]

In 1853 the Legislature of Vermont chartered the Bennington Battle Monument Association and named among the incorporators thereof the following well known citizens of the State: John S. Robinson, A. P. Lyman, Samuel H. Brown, Benj. F. Fay, E. D. Hubbell, Heman Swift, Pierpoint Isham, William Bigelow, Daniel Roberts, A. L. Miner, Caleb B. Harrington, D. A. Smalley, Homer E. Royce, Asa O. Aldis, Oscar L. Shafter, Wm. C. Bradley, Chas. K. Field, Frederick Holbrook, Isaac F. Redfield, Stephen Thomas, William Mattocks, Henry Stevens, Erastus Fairbanks, Portus Baxter, E. P. Walton, Chas. G. Eastman and Paul Dillingham.

It appropriated \$3000, on condition that \$7000 more were raised and the corner stone of the proposed monument were laid on the following 16th of August. These conditions were not fulfilled, but the fact of legislative action proved to be most helpful when a second attempt in 1876 was made to again incorporate the Association. The chief promoter of this first enterprise was Mr. Geo. W. Robinson of Bennington.

The second movement was an outcome of the proposition to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the battle, with more than the usual, or even occasional, notice which every anniversary since the battle was fought, had received. For several years previous to Aug. 16th, 1877, it was common talk among the people of Bennington, ever alive to the importance of Gen. Stark's victory on the fortunes of the Revolutionary war, that the centennial of that victory must be celebrated in a manner worthy of an event of such national importance; and, long before the time approached, it was well understood throughout the State that there would be a great celebration at Bennington during the week of Aug. 16th, 1877. So early as August of 1875, the Veteran Soldiers, holding their semi-annual reunion at Brattleboro', adjourned to meet at Bennington two years later on account of it, and the Bennington *Daily News* of Aug. 20th says that an "enthusiastic course of citizens endorsed" this action. Col. Jas. H. Walbridge of Bennington made a speech in favor of such adjournment. On Sept. 16th, the *Banner* has an article from "Civis" advocating the formation of a Town Historical Society to take the initial steps towards securing a suitable celebration and for other purposes, and the *Banner* comments favorably thereon. The proposition to form such a society was well received throughout the State, and also the proposition to celebrate the centennial year of Vermont's existence as a State organization, which was one of its avowed objects. The editor of the *Banner* was at that time the late J. Halsey Cushman, and there was no more enthusiastic supporter of a great celebration than he. In a speech at the Officers' Reunion at St. Alban's, Oct. 14th, he warmly endorsed the project.

The Bennington *Daily News*, which was then substantially a

daily edition of the *Banner*, on the 28th of Oct., published a call for a meeting of the citizens of the town, as the subject of a celebration had been sufficiently discussed for months to warrant action. The Vermont *Gazette*, at that time edited by Mr. Asaph P. Childs, had, from time to time, advocated beginning the work of getting ready for the celebration. The call in full is as follows:

### BENNINGTON'S CENTENNIAL.

As it has been suggested that a Town Historical society be formed in this town to aid in preparing for the centennial anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, and as such suggestion has found favor throughout the State, a meeting of our citizens to take the matter into consideration seems desirable. All those therefore, desirous of forwarding this object are requested to meet at the office of John V. Hall in this village on Tuesday evening next at 7:30 o'clock for consultation concerning the proposed organization.

MANY CITIZENS.

Bennington, Oct. 28, 1875.

In accordance with this call a meeting was held, over which the Rev. Chauncey H. Hubbard presided. Col. John E. Pratt was elected secretary. It was formally resolved to form the Bennington Historical Society, and this Col. Scott proposed to amend by calling the society the Bennington Historical and Monumental Society. In a forcible speech he showed that now was the time to begin a movement for a monument if we were ever going to have one. His amendment prevailed, but when the committee, appointed at the meeting to draw up a plan of organization, reported, they reported in favor of the idea but omitted the word "monumental" from the title as unnecessary.

This committee were Messrs. Thomas White, C. E. Welling, J. H. Cushman, J. Seymour Merrill and Alfred Robinson, and the meeting adjourned subject to their call. On the 16th they reported a constitution and by-laws and a full list of officers, which were respectively adopted and elected. The president was the Hon. Hiland Hall. Among the vice presidents, were the Rev. Isaac Jennings, Seth B. Hunt, Trenor W. Park, Rev. C. H. Hubbard, A. B. Gardner, Henry G. Root, Dr. Benj. F. Morgan, Thos. White, Henry W. Putnam, Hiram Bingham, H. E. Bradford, David F. Squires and John H. Flagg. The corresponding secretary was Charles M. Bliss; the recording secretary, Merritt B. Morgan and the treasurer Daniel McEowen. The Board of Directors were as follows: A. B. Valentine, A. Robinson, Jas. H. Walbridge, C. E. Dewey, Edward Kinsley, A. J. Matison, J. V. D. S. Merrill, C. R. Sanford, H. T. Cushman, Asaph P. Childs, Geo. A. Wood, Olin Scott, J. Halsey Cushman, Geo.

W. Robinson, Milo C. Huling, L. P. Norton, A. C. Hubbell, E. O. Cole, Ed. S. Chandler, L. F. Abbott, Wm. E. Hawks, 2d, O. D. Adams and the president of the society, its past presidents, secretaries and the chairmen of all its committees.

The active work of preparation for the celebration and the monument now commenced in earnest. During the winter of 1875-6 this board of directors, such members as especially interested themselves in the work and were in town during the winter, held weekly meetings in what is now Sheriff McCall's office in the Court House at Bennington. The names of these are Alfred Robinson, C. E. Dewey, A. P. Childs, Olin Scott, J. H. Cushman, Geo. W. Robinson, L. P. Norton, A. C. Hubbell, Ed. S. Chandler, and the secretaries, Charles M. Bliss and Merritt B. Morgan, and Col. John E. Pratt the chairman of the genealogical committee. The President of the society, the even then venerable Gov. Hall, was never present, but he was constantly kept informed of the proceedings; and in consequence he gave the board his most hearty support. Several of the vice presidents and other citizens were also deeply interested in the work. Among those who were most active were three clergymen of the town, Messrs. Jennings, Hubbard and R. M. Luther, and Messrs. Gardner, Bingham, J. S. Merrill, Elijah Dewey, and Thos. White. Mr. Dewey and Judge White, the first never a member of the Monument Association and the latter not until a late period, have ever been among the most earnest promoters of the monument enterprise. They have been so, moreover, when members themselves and even officers were lukewarm in their interest. During this winter a "statement" of the plans and purposes of the society was prepared in which was foreshadowed the probable action of the State legislatures of Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, in regard to our own monument, and that of Congress in regard to designating all the battle-fields of the Revolutionary war with suitable memorials. This "statement" was published in pamphlet form during the session of the Vermont legislature in 1876 and in part reproduced by Massachusetts friends of the project during the session of the Massachusetts legislature in 1877.

The plans thus laid in the winter of 1875-6 in regard to the legislative action of the three States were substantially carried into effect as they were laid, and as soon as the respective legislatures met; those in regard to Congress could not be until that body, as was anticipated in the "statement," should be called on to act in behalf of Yorktown, as it was in 1879-80. It was foreseen that Congress would build, or help to build, a monument at Yorktown, and having done that, monuments on all the important battle fields of the Revolution erected by government aid would follow as a matter of course. The language of the "statement" on this point is, in part, as follows: "The general government, first by resolution of the Continental Congress, October 29, 1787, and twice afterwards, the last time as late as 1838, by bill reported by committees of the House, has shown itself favorably disposed towards the erection of a monument at Yorktown; and it is now called on from various quarters to carry out these good intentions. Should it do so, it would doubtless look favorably on the plan of placing, or assisting to place, during this centennial term suitable monuments on or near all the battle fields of the Revolution. \* \* \* The general government could, with a very limited outlay, mark, in an appropriate manner, all the localities of Revolutionary interest throughout the Union.

Not so very readily, however, did Congress enter upon this policy. It was feared that in doing so too wide a door would be opened for all sorts of monumental schemes, and when in January, 1880, the House of Representatives had, without opposition, passed the Yorktown bill and sent it to the Senate, this opposition manifested itself in and out of Congress. The military committee of that body reported the bill favorably, but used the following hostile language in regard to the general policy of building Revolutionary monuments.

"Your committee are of the opinion that it would be unwise to adopt a precedent which would lead to the erection by the National Government of monuments commemorative of Revolutionary events, \* \* \* but they find no difficulty in making this case an exception."

Nevertheless, so did the current of popular opinion on this subject change, that this same committee, before the close of that Congress, not only reported special bills for monuments commemorating the battles of The Cowpens, Oriskany and Bennington, but reported Senator Morrill's general bill in favor of monuments on all the important battle fields of the Revolution, on condition that the localities should raise a sum sufficient to cover one-half their cost. Another committee reported a special bill for Saratoga. Since then many special bills have passed Congress for monu-

ments to commemorate events in our Revolutionary history, and a committee of the House of Representatives in 1884 reported an improved general bill, but no vote on any general bill was ever had in either House of Congress.

The amount appropriated by Vermont in 1876 for the monument was \$15,000, and \$2000 for the celebration. The \$15,000 was conditioned on the raising of \$5000 by the Association. This was done, and early in 1881 the \$15,000 was drawn from the State treasury and placed, with the \$5000, in the Bennington Battle Monument Fund under a law creating such a fund, passed in 1880. The Treasurer of the State is the custodian of the fund. The original charterers of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, incorporated in 1876, were according to Sec. 1 of the Act as follows: "Hiland Hall, Horace Fairbanks, W. H. H. Bingham, Justin S. Morrill, E. J. Phelps, Geo. F. Edmunds, Isaac Jennings, Trenor W. Park, John B. Page, Jacob Estey, E. P. Walton, John Gregory Smith, Asahel Peck, John W. Stewart, Abraham B. Gardner, Paul Dillingham, Harmon Canfield, Edward Seymour, Burnham Martin, Frederick Billings, Franklin Butler, Jed P. Ladd, Mason S. Colburn, Edward A. Sowles, Carroll S. Page, E. D. Mason, W. W. Grout, E. P. Colton, Geo. N. Dale, Duane L. Kent, Gilbert A. Davis, Homer Goodhue, Milo C. Huling, J. Henry Guild, Geo. W. Farwell, Oscar E. Butterfield, Cyrus Jennings, E. D. Blodgett, Redfield Proctor, John Lovejoy Mason, Eben Graves, Hiram Barton; and Seth B. Hunt, H. Henry Baxter and William M. Evarts of the city of New York, Samuel B. Sanford and Daniel Robinson of Troy, N. Y., with seven persons to be elected annually in January by the Bennington Historical Society."

In Sec. 2 the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are made, *ex-officio*, members.

In Sec. 4 the Governor is directed to invite, in the name of the State, the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts to unite with Vermont in erecting a monument at Bennington.

In 1880, the Governors of New Hampshire and Massachusetts were, by law, made, *ex-officio*, members of the Association and the Governors of the three States, *ex-officio*, directors of the same.

In 1886, the State appropriated a further sum, not to exceed \$10,000, towards the purchase of a site.

In 1877, the State of Massachusetts appropriated \$7,500 in aid of the monument. This appropriation lapsed, under the general laws of that State, and in 1886 it was renewed and increased to \$10,000. To prevent any further lapse it was funded and the Association added \$5000, which with the \$10,000 constitutes the Bennington Battle Monument Fund of Massachusetts of \$15,000, of which the Treasurer of that State is the custodian. It is a condition of both the Vermont and Massachusetts funds that they can be added to, by the Association or by individuals. One hundred and sixty-five dollars have thus been added to the Vermont fund. The interest of the Vermont fund is paid as it accrues to the Treasurer of the Association, that of the Massachusetts is added to the fund as it accrues.

In 1877 the State of New Hampshire appropriated \$5000 in aid of the monument. The States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts each appropriated the sum of \$2500 towards defraying the expenses of the Executive and Legislative departments with their military escorts, in attending the Centennial celebration. Massachusetts afterwards increased this appropriation.

The organization of the Monument Association took place, as by law required, at the Court House in Bennington on the second Wednesday in January, 1877. The Hon. Wm. H. H. Bingham of Stowe, was made temporary chairman and the Hon. Carroll S. Page of Hyde Park temporary secretary. The Hon. Horace Fairbanks, the Governor of the State, was elected President of the Association, ex-Gov. Hall Vice President, Charles M. Bliss secretary, John T. Shurtleff assistant secretary, and Milo C. Huling treasurer. The Historical Society had previously met and elected its seven members of the Association, for the year ensuing, as follows: John T. Shurtleff, Alonzo B. Valentine, Charles M. Bliss, Olin Scott, Chas. E. Dewey, Henry G. Root and Geo. W. Robinson. The Association also elected as corporate members at its first meeting Messrs. Wm. E. Hawks 2d, A. P. Childs and E. S. Chandler. At an adjourned meeting held Jan. 23d, a Board of Directors was elected consisting of A. B. Gardner, A. B. Valentine, Olin Scott, Chas. E. Dewey and A. P. Childs. At this meeting a code of by-laws was adopted, one article of which created the Vermont Centennial Commission under whose auspices the Centennial celebration was conducted. This code was afterwards altered, and the code adopted March 21st was and is, with subsequent minor changes, the code under which the Association has continued its proceedings.

The by-laws provide for certain meetings of the Association, for election of officers, and appointment of committees, and for the creation of the Vermont Centennial Commission; they declare that the Association shall control its own funds and that they shall be paid out by the treasurer only on orders signed by a majority of the Board of Directors, provide for auditors to audit all accounts, and provide for their own amendment. The section defining the powers and duties of the Directors is as follows, Sec. 4, Art. III:

"It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to manage the affairs of the Association subject to such directions as the Association shall from time to time give them."

The work of the Association was, for the year 1877, principally, to conduct the Celebration of the week of the 16th of August of that year. Notwithstanding the fact that a commission was created, the responsibility for the celebration rested, by law, on the Association. The Association and not the Commission invited all the guests, and looked after all the exercises of the special two days' celebration, with the conduct of which it was charged by its charter. The Commission appointed an executive committee consisting of Messrs. Root, Valentine, Huling, Page and Gen. P. P. Pitkin of Montpelier. The latter declined and Col. George A. Merrill of Rutland was appointed. The Association also appointed a committee consisting of Chas. M. Bliss, Isaac Jennings and A. B. Gardner to which Edward J. Phelps, when he was elected the President of the Commission was added, to have charge of the literary exercises of the two days. Two books have been published containing, together, the proceedings of the week of the celebration, one by Chas. S. Forbes of St. Alban's giving a pretty correct account of who was in attendance and what was done; but not the orations, speeches and poems, which were a chief feature of the occasion, nor the letters from distinguished citizens of the country; the other, a semi-official account by the Association, containing very accurate reports of these in the main, but omitting some of chief note, and failing to report with any adequate fullness the proceedings of the celebration and who attended. From the two books taken together one can, however, get a very tolerable idea of how far the Association obeyed the mandate of the State "to secure \* \* \* an appropriate Centennial celebration of the Battle of Bennington, and also the recognition of the year 1877 as the 100th year of the existence of this State as an independent State." The whole expense of the celebration was over \$14,000.

During the autumn after the celebration, the attention of the Association was directed towards the raising of further funds for the monument. By law, \$5000 were to be raised to secure the \$15,000 but it was felt by many that a much larger sum than that should be raised. The subject of a suitable design was also brought forward early. On the latter point a resolution drawn by Gov. Hall was offered on the 26th of September and passed on the 23d of October, to the effect that as Massachusetts and New Hampshire had contributed to the monument, the Association would "officially consider no plans or designs for any such monument except in conference with the Governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire."

On the same day the place for the monument was fixed "on the site of the Old Continental Store House at Bennington Center." On the 29th a more formal resolution was passed, unanimously affirming this site, as it was "the objective point of Baum's detachment." On the same day a plan was reported for raising money, and a "statement" of the Association containing it and other matter ordered printed, to the extent of 1000 copies. In it the following language was used in regard to procuring a design and in regard to completing the monument when once begun. The sentiment of the Association, and indeed of the town was, from the start, opposed to beginning a monument and leaving it for another generation to finish:

"It is proper to observe here, that the Association has not yet adopted or considered any plan or design for a monument, nor will it officially consider any except in conference with the Governors of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. It is not yet at all certain how much money the Association will have at its disposal for monumental purposes, and until that time arrives designs are premature. Suffice it to say that it is the deliberate opinion of this Association, that no attempt should be made at erecting a monument until the Association has collected and has in its possession a sum sufficient to erect and maintain a monument, which shall be, by its size, its artistic character and imposing effect worthy of the three States which have so properly taken the initiative in its erection, worthy of the nation whose ultimate independence was here made sure, and capable—so far as monumental art is capable—of commemorating the great event it is designed to sig-

nalize. The faith of the Association is pledged to the States which have made appropriations for the proposed monument; it is pledged to all who shall contribute to it, that when the structure is once begun, the funds shall be in its treasury to complete it. No debt in any event shall be created, nor shall any half-completed pile be left to mortify the generous contributors to the funds for its erection and to attest the bad faith of the Association."

Mr. Geo. W. Robinson was soon appointed a solicitor on behalf of the Association, and the work of raising funds began. Mrs. Omina Gerry of Bennington, a descendant of a soldier who was in the battle, was the first donor, giving the sum of \$100. The greater part of the money raised by subscription has been raised by Mr. Robinson.

In view of the very general failure of the monument projects of the country, and to set the current of thought right in Bennington on art subjects, the association, on the 12th of December, invited "the Hon. E. J. Phelps the Rev. M. H. Buckham, Prof. H. A. P. Torrey, and the Rev. L. G. Ware of Burlington to deliver their popular art lectures in Bennington" during that winter. They accepted the invitation and the lectures were delivered to good houses in connection with the lecture course of the Young Men's Association. President Buckham at the close of his lecture addressed himself specially to the Monument Association in words of cautionary advice. Four editions, of 500 copies each, of these words of wisdom have been printed. On the 29th the following action was taken.

"Resolved, That the Board of Directors be instructed to receive plans and proposals for the Bennington Battle Monument and submit recommendations relating to the building of the same to this Association as soon as practicable."

January 9th, 1878, the annual meeting of the Association was held, ex-Gov. Hiland Hall the Vice President presiding. The Governor of Massachusetts, the Hon. Alex. H. Rice and the Governor of New Hampshire, the Hon. Benj. F. Prescott were elected members of the association. The by-laws were altered, making a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary, of the office of secretary. The following officers were elected, President Hon. Horace Fairbanks, Vice President ex-Gov. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Charles M. Bliss, treasurer Milo C. Huling, Directors, Horace Fairbanks, Benj. F. Prescott, Alexander H. Rice, A. B. Gardner, E. J. Phelps, Henry G. Root and Isaac Jennings. On motion of Gov. Hall the following resolution was passed.

"Resolved, That the resolution of the Association, adopted the 29th of December last, instructing the Board of Directors to receive plans and proposals for the Bennington Battle Monument, be and is hereby rescinded, and that the Directors be authorized to take such measures in relation thereto as in their judgment will best promote the objects of the Association."

The Historical Society elected seven members of the Association for the year 1878 namely, Messrs. Shurtleff, Valentine, Bliss, Scott, Dewey, Root and Geo. W. Robinson. On the 13th of February, Mr. Huling having resigned as treasurer, Mr. Luther R. Graves the President of the First National Bank, was elected to fill the vacancy. No meetings of the Association were held after this during the year 1878. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Bennington, on the 16th of January Gov. Prescott of New Hampshire, presiding. Mr. Phelps offered a resolution to the effect that a worthy monument should be erected, which was passed. Another was passed proposing to raise \$45,000 additional funds and another, making the Hon. Henry G. Root the "Financial Agent of this Association for the purpose of raising the money specified in the foregoing resolution." A by-law was passed as follows: "No design for the Bennington Battle Monument shall be adopted except by the unanimous approval of the entire Board of Directors."

On the 26th of May the Board met again at Burlington Gov. Fairbanks, the Chairman of the Board, presiding. Mr. Gardner was added to the finance committee, and Messrs. Phelps and Prescott created a committee on design. The next meeting was at Concord, N. H., July 11th, Governor Fairbanks presiding.

The third annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 9th, 1879. The by-laws were altered so that the Board might consist of nine members.

The following officers were chosen: President Gov. Benj. F. Prescott of New Hampshire, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Charles M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Gov. Redfield Proctor of Vermont, Gov. Thomas Talbot of Massachusetts, Gov. Benj. F. Prescott of New Hampshire, Hon.'s E. J. Phelps, A. B. Gardner, H. G. Root, Rev. Isaac Jennings, Hon. T. W. Park and Maj. A. B. Valentine. "Hon. Henry G. Root, Mr. Geo. W. Robinson and Mr. Charles M. Bliss each reported progress in procur-

ing subscriptions for the erection of the monument."

The seven members elected by the Historical Society for 1879 were Messrs. Shurtleff, Valentine, Bliss, Scott, Dewey, Root and Geo. W. Robinson.

No other meeting of the Association was held during the year 1879.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors for 1879 was held at the State House in Boston, March 4th, Gov. Talbot, the chairman, presiding. All the Directors were present except Mr. Park. Mr. Phelps on behalf of committee on a design for the monument made a report. "On motion of Mr. Root it was unanimously

*Resolved*, That the committee on a design for the monument, namely Gov. Prescott and Hon. Edward J. Phelps be re-appointed, and that they be instructed to obtain and lay before the Board a design for a monument which shall cost not less than fifty thousand dollars."

Messrs. Root and Gardner were continued the finance committee. Adjourned to meet at Bennington August 15th.

The second meeting was held August 15th and 16th at the house of Trenor W. Park. Ex-Gov. Rice and ex-Mayor Fred. W. Lincoln of Boston were present. Gov. Rice presided, in the absence of the chairman. Messrs. Rice, Park and Gardner were added to the committee on design, and the committee were empowered to "employ such ways and means as in their judgment seem expedient to secure designs for the Bennington Battle Monument." Adjourned to meet at the call of the committee on design. The next meeting was held August 16th, 1882.

The fourth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 14th, 1880. No quorum being present it was, on motion of A. B. Valentine, voted to adjourn to meet at the same place Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 10 o'clock A. M. On the 27th, "in consequence of a severe storm," no meeting was held, and the officers of the Association held over until their successors were elected as provided by the by-laws. The seven members elected by the Historical Society for 1880 were Messrs. Shurtleff, Valentine, Bliss, Scott, Dewey, Root and Geo. W. Robinson.

The fifth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 12, 1881. Messrs. Henry G. Root, A. B. Valentine, Olin Scott and Thos. Allen of St. Louis were elected permanent members of the Corporation in place of deceased members. The legislature of 1880, having made the Governors of Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire Directors, *ex-officio*, of the Association, the election of officers was as follows: President Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, E. J. Phelps, A. B. Gardner, H. G. Root, Rev. Isaac Jennings, T. W. Park, Maj. A. B. Valentine. The Governors of the three States were at this time Hon. John D. Long, Massachusetts; Hon. Natt Head, New Hampshire; Hon. Roswell Farnham, Vermont.

The members of the Association elected by the Historical Society for the year 1881 were: Messrs. Dewey, Bliss, Shurtleff, Geo. W. Robinson, L. P. Norton, L. F. Abbott and Henry A. Harman. No further meeting was held during the year. The Act of Congress appropriating \$40,000 for the monument was passed by the House of Representatives this year, it having been passed by the Senate the year previous. The House report in favor of the Senate bill says: "The State of Vermont has appropriated the sum of \$15,000, Massachusetts \$7,500, and New Hampshire \$5000. These sums have been increased by private subscription from all parts of the country, until the aggregate sum reaches in round numbers, \$40,000. The Bennington Battle Monument Association, a Corporation chartered by the State of Vermont \* \* \*

design to raise the sum of \$100,000 to consummate the patriotic object of the Association; and your committee are of the opinion that having accomplished so much themselves, they ought not to look in vain to Congress for assistance." It was the oft expressed opinion of the late Gov. Hall that "Congress would give the Association \$50,000 as readily as it would \$5000 if it could be made to understand the case" and the subject be brought to a vote. He knew and dwelt, almost to the point of discouragement, on the difficulty of getting the attention of Congress to a special matter of this kind; but thanks to an energetic and influential delegation from Vermont and particularly to the active interest of Senator Morrill and Representative Joyce, and to members of Congress from other States interested in similar patriotic enterprises, and to the generally expressed favorable sentiment of the country, Congress did listen. No bill, however, was introduced in either House for the Bennington Battle Monument. It was believed that all the important battle fields of the Revolution should receive Congressional recognition and a general bill was prepared covering all the principal points, but not by name, on condition that the localities should raise one-half of the money needed for the monuments.

This bill was reported favorably and also a special bill for Bennington embodying this principle. It was because the Association had raised \$40,000 that Congress gave it \$40,000. Had the Association raised \$50,000 Congress would, no doubt, have duplicated that sum and thus Gov. Hall's wish would have been realized. The bill was approved Feb. 8, 1881. The appropriation was conditioned on the approval of the design by the President, or by an art commission appointed by him, and on the report of three army officers that the sum appropriated was sufficient with other funds to complete the monument. Somewhat similar conditions attach to the Bennington Battle Monument Fund of Vermont, \$20,165, to the Bennington Monument Fund of Massachusetts, \$15,000 and its accrued interest, and to the New Hampshire appropriation. The legislature of Vermont, however, in 1884 released \$10,000 of the fund to the Association for the purchase of a site, but failed to make an additional appropriation of \$10,000 to add to the fund, though such an appropriation was reported favorably by a joint committee of both Houses. In 1886, an additional \$10,000 was freely appropriated.

Up to the passage of the bill by the Senate of the United States appropriating \$40,000, there was a difference of opinion in the Association as to the propriety of procuring a design for the monument. After the passage of the bill in 1881 there was no such difference.

On the 11th day of January, 1882, the sixth annual meeting of the Association was held. Mr. Luther R. Graves was elected a member and the seven Historical Society members were elected by that Society as follows: Messrs. Dewey, Bliss, Shurtleff, Geo. W. Robinson, Norton, Abbott and Harman. The following officers were elected: President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, E. J. Phelps, H. G. Root, Rev. Isaac Jennings, T. W. Park and A. B. Valentine. The Directors, *ex-officio*, were Gov. John D. Long of Massachusetts, Gov. Chas. H. Bell of New Hampshire and Gov. Roswell Farnham of Vermont. A meeting was held on the 27th of December of that year to receive propositions for amending the by-laws. No other meetings were held.

On the 16th of August, 1882, the Directors met at Bennington, the Hon. Alex. H. Rice, a member of the committee on design, meeting with them and presiding over the meeting. Messrs. Park and Valentine were added to the finance committee. Several designs were offered and it was resolved that "the committee on design be instructed to obtain sketches or designs from such competent artists as they may deem advisable to apply to." Adjourned to meet at the call of the committee on design.

The seventh annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 10th, 1883. The Historical Society elected on the same day the following seven members of the Association for 1883: Charles E. Dewey, Geo. W. Robinson, Charles M. Bliss, Edward L. Bates, John T. Shurtleff, L. F. Abbott and L. P. Norton. Messrs. John G. McCullough, Olin L. Warner, Alfred Robinson, Arthur L. Perry and Fred. B. Jennings were elected members of the Corporation. The by-laws were altered making the number of Directors ten instead of nine as heretofore. The number elected and appointed had been ten although the by-laws provided for but nine. The following officers were elected: President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Col. Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, E. J. Phelps, Rev. Isaac Jennings, H. G. Root, A. B. Valentine, John G. McCullough and Samuel B. Sanford. The following by-law was passed: "The assent of two-thirds of the Directors of the Association shall be required for the adoption of a plan for the Battle Monument instead of a unanimous assent as now provided for." No action on the Rinn design, under this by-law, has ever been taken by the Directors. It is held that the Association having adopted the design, even though conditionally, and instructed the Directors to proceed in the erection of the monument, such action is not necessary.

The Directors, *ex-officio*, for 1883, were Gov. Benj. F. Butler of Massachusetts, Gov. Chas. H. Bell of New Hampshire, and Gov. John L. Barstow of Vermont. No other meeting was held during the year.

The Board of Directors held a meeting on Jan. 31st, 1883 at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York City, Gov. Bell of New Hampshire presiding. Ex-Gov. Rice of the committee on design was present. Gen. John G. McCullough was added to that committee, Messrs. Gardner and Park of the committee having died. On motion of Gov. Barstow, it was "voted that the committee on design be and are hereby authorized and requested to take into consideration the propriety of securing from the Hon. Secretary of

War a detail of an officer of the U. S. Engineer Corps to superintend the construction of the monument." Messrs. Sanford and McCullough were added to the finance committee. Adjourned to meet at the call of the committee on design.

On the 16th and 17th days of August, the Directors again met according to adjournment, ex-Gov. Prescott presiding, and ex-Gov. Rice being also present. The committee on design reported the design of Mr. John F. Weir, Professor in the art school of Yale College, a statuesque design. Many other designs were presented, chief of which was the design of Mr. J. Ph. Rinn of Boston, a design known to the people of Bennington as the "tall tower" 300 feet high. This was much favored by all the directors but it was held to be too expensive to be built. Later information proved that it could be. The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the committee, no action having been taken on the design. No further meeting was held during the year. Many of the designs brought forward at this, and other meetings, were by some of the most popular artists of the country.

The eighth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 9th, 1884, the Rev. Isaac Jennings presiding.

The seven members of the Association for 1884, elected by the Historical Society, were as follows: Charles E. Dewey, Geo. W. Robinson, Charles M. Bliss, Edward L. Bates, J. T. Shurtleff, L. F. Abbott and L. P. Norton. The following officers were elected: President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Col. Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Charles M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, E. J. Phelps, Isaac Jennings, H. G. Root, A. B. Valentine, J. G. McCullough and Samuel B. Sanford. The members of the Board, *ex-officio*; were Gov. Geo. D. Robinson of Massachusetts, Gov. Samuel W. Hale of New Hampshire and Gov. Samuel E. Pingree of Vermont.

During the latter part of the summer and during the autumn of 1884 the Association held frequent meetings, in the expectation that a design, something of the character of the "tall tower" of Mr. Rinn would be adopted. There was also some prospect that the legislature would make a further appropriation, and in view of having some ten thousand dollars additional to procure a site, a committee was appointed to confer with the owners of the lands needed, with a view to purchasing. Mr. Thomas Allen of Boston was elected a member of the Association, and Mr. Olin L. Warner and he were appointed the "confidential advising artists" of the Association. In view of the expectancy of the adoption of a design for a monument of "magnitude of dimensions" a call for a meeting of the Association was issued as follows, and all the members were served with printed notices:

BENNINGTON, Vt., Sept. 29, 1884.

SIR:—Notice is hereby given, in accordance with a vote of the Bennington Battle Monument Association, at a meeting holden at Bennington on the 27th inst., that a meeting of the Association will be held at Bennington on Monday, Oct. 13th, at 2 o'clock p. m., to consider the adoption (on the part of the Association) of a design for the monument. (Signed.) CHARLES M. BLISS,

Corresponding Secretary.

At the urgent request of Mr. Phelps this meeting was indefinitely postponed, and at the next annual meeting the action of one of these meetings was "stricken from the files" on the ground of irregularity. One vote in relation to the purchasing of a site taken at another meeting was rescinded. This action rendered null the election of Mr. Allen, who was re-elected the same day, and also annulled the vote making Mr. Warner and himself "confidential advising artists."

On the 2d of December of this year the Directors held a meeting at the office of the Panama Railroad Co., in New York City, with ex-Gov. Rice of the committee on design present. Ex-Gov. Prescott presided. Mr. Phelps presented a written report of the committee on design and the report was accepted and the design of Prof. Weir formally adopted by all the Directors present. The report of Mr. Phelps was printed and distributed. Subsequently the assent of all the other Directors was obtained.

The ninth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 14, 1885. Gov. Pingree presiding. Twenty-seven members were present. The action above noted in regard to the action at the autumn meetings was taken. Mr. Allen and Mr. Frank E. Morgan of New York were elected members of the Association; a committee on by-laws was appointed and the meeting adjourned till August, unless one should be called previously by the Directors. The Historical Society elected as its seven members of the Association for the ensuing year, Charles E. Dewey, Geo. W. Robinson, Charles M. Bliss, John T. Shurtleff, L. F. Abbott, Luman P. Norton and Charles A. Pierce. The following officers were elected:

President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Hon. Hiland Hall, recording secretary Col. Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, E. J. Phelps, Isaac Jennings, H. G. Root, A. B. Valentine, J. G. McCullough, Samuel B. Sanford. The Directors, *ex-officio*, were the same as for 1884.

As the difference of opinion between the committee on design and the large majority of the Association in regard to the character of the design, was a radical one, the Historical Society now took a prominent part in its adjustment. In the spring a call for a meeting of the Society was issued, and on the 14th of April such meeting was held at the Court House and a committee of forty members headed by Gov. Hall, with power to add to their number, was appointed to bring forward a design of the character of that which had already been presented by Mr. Rinn.

During the contest over the adoption of a design, excitement ran very high. A large number of our citizens, mostly descendants of those who fought in the Battle of Bennington, early in this year addressed a letter to Gov. Hall in opposition to the Weir design. The Governor had addressed a letter to Mr. Luther R. Graves to be read at the annual meeting of 1885 when the friends of the Weir design expected to have their design adopted. It was not read but was published and circulated. Out of this letter and the published letter of citizens to Gov. Hall grew his more elaborate and famous letter, of June 1st, to the members of the Association. A circular letter was also addressed and published signed by a large number of our leading citizens to the members of the Association urging their special attention to this important matter of the design.

The "committee of forty" met on the Friday subsequent to their appointment, Gov. Hall in the chair, and after adding several more to their number, appointed a "working committee," so named by Gov. Hall, to carry out their wishes. This committee was Charles M. Bliss, Geo. W. Robinson, Milo C. Huling, John V. Hall and John T. Shurtleff. A finance committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. L. R. Graves, Charles Thatchner and L. F. Abbott. Subsequently an advisory committee was appointed consisting of Hon. Hiland Hall, chairman; Prof. Arthur L. Perry, Williams College; the Hon. Joseph B. Walker of Concord, N. H., (a great grand son of the Rev. Timothy Walker of Revolutionary fame); Prof. H. A. P. Torrey of the University of Vermont; the Hon. s Horace Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury, and John W. Stewart, M. C., of Middlebury, Vt.

On the 8th and 9th of July this committee met at Bennington and recommended to the Historical Society for presentation to the Monument Association at its August meeting, a new design by Mr. Rinn for a monument 300 feet high. Their report was printed, accompanied by a "statement" by the "working committee," and also by opinions of artists on the proper character of a design for a monument here. Four hundred copies of this document were printed and circulated.

On the first day of June the President of the Society, ex-Gov. Hall, issued in pamphlet form a personal appeal to the members of the Monument Association which was widely distributed. The report of Mr. Phelps on the Weir design, and the letter of Gov. Hall in opposition to it, are both preserved by many persons for the choice English in which they are written. Between the time of the annual meeting of 1885 and the August meeting of that year Mr. Phelps, the chairman of the committee on design, had been appointed United States Minister to England.

On the 11th and 12th days of August the Association met to act on the design presented by the Historical Society. The meeting was the largest ever held by the Association, some thirty members being present. Gov. Pingree presided. "Gen. McCullough, on behalf of the Board of Directors, withdrew from the consideration of the meeting the monument design of Prof. Weir, to which the meeting assented."

"Hon. E. P. Walton offered the following resolution, the words in parentheses being incorporated on motion of the Hon. Wm. M. Evarts of New York.

"Resolved, That the design for a structure three hundred feet high recommended by the advisory committee of the Historical Society, to this Association, be adopted subject to such modification as the (committee of the) Association (now to be appointed) shall hereafter make; and also subject to such reduction in size (if need be) as will secure the payment of the appropriations from Congress and from the States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, which have already been made."

"The resolution was unanimously adopted."

Prof. Perry offered a resolution naming as the committee referred to "the working committee" of the Historical Society, sometimes called "the committee of five" and directing them to take measures to secure the appropriations for the use of the

Association. This committee at once began the work assigned them, but soon discovered that the Massachusetts appropriation of \$7,500 had lapsed. Their hands were therefore tied till the Massachusetts legislature could act, which it did in March following by renewing the appropriation, making it \$10,000 and, in June funding it so that it could not further lapse. The committee in the meantime raised about \$1000 additional subscriptions, mainly through the instrumentality of one of their number, Mr. Geo. W. Robinson. They also ascertained by *bona fide* bids for the construction of the monument, that it was practicable to build the structure 300 feet high, and so reported at the annual meeting in January.

The tenth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 13th, 1886, the Hon. James K. Batchelder, Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives, presiding. Messrs. Charles M. Bliss and Geo. W. Robinson were elected members. The Historical Society elected the following seven members for the year ensuing: Truman H. Bartlett, John V. Hall, John T. Shurtleff, Charles E. Dewey, L. F. Abbott, Luman P. Norton and Charles A. Pierce. The following officers were elected: President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Rev. Isaac Jennings, recording secretary Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, Isaac Jennings, H. G. Root, A. B. Valentine, J. G. McCullough, Horace Fairbanks and Charles M. Bliss. The members of the Board, *ex-officio*, were Gov. Robinson of Massachusetts, Gov. Hale of New Hampshire and Gov. Pingree of Vermont.

A special meeting of the Association was held May 19th, Vice President Jennings presiding. The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors be requested to co-operate with the committee of five in their work, and that said Directors be requested to at once procure a plot or survey of the site of the monument and to locate the same, and to make such contracts as may be necessary to commence the work of laying the foundation thereof as early as possible, and not later than the 16th day of August of the present season.

Thenceforward the Directors and the "working committee" worked together as one committee. It was also resolved that the action of the meeting of Aug. 12th, 1885, whereby the "committee of five" had been given power to modify the design for the monument, be so construed as to give them power to reduce the size instead of leaving that power with the Association.

A special meeting of the Association was held at Bennington on the 6th day of August, ex-Gov. Fairbanks presiding. The following resolution was passed:

*Resolved*, That the monument be located in the centre of the highway, on the crest of the hill as nearly opposite the Old Continental Store House as practicable." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

"Prof. Perry offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the working committee raised in 1885, be empowered, in co-operation with the Directors, to proceed at once to lay the foundation of the monument, of the design already adopted, with full power to make contracts and cause the erection and completion of the monument. Resolution unanimously adopted."

The committee and Directors at once called upon Architect Rinn for a separate plan and specifications for the foundation of a monument 300 feet high, and said plan and specifications were furnished by him and printed, preparatory to advertising and letting, the date of letting being specified as the 23d of September; but, before the 23d arrived it was deemed advisable, on account of the lateness of the season and the near approach of the session of the legislature to postpone action till another season. It was expected that the legislature would make an additional appropriation for a site. This expectation was realized, and a bill was passed creating two commissions, one to determine how much land was required for the site, the other to purchase it for the State or take the proper steps to condemn it, if purchase was impracticable. The first commission as finally constituted consisted of ex-Gov. John L. Barstow, Lt. Gov. Levi K. Fuller, ex-Gov. Horace Fairbanks, the Hon. Aldace F. Walker and the President of the Association, ex-Gov. Prescott. The second commission consisted of the four first named and Milo C. Huling of Bennington. On the appointment of Col. Walker on the Interstate Commerce Commission by the President of the United States, he resigned, and the Governor appointed the Hon. Jas. K. Batchelder in his place.

A special meeting of the Association was held Jan. 5th, to meet the State Commissioners. Col. Mason S. Colburn of Manchester presided. A committee of three was appointed to represent the Association before the Commissioners namely, Messrs. Root, Hall and Valentine.

Early in the spring of 1886, and as soon after the action of the Massachusetts legislature as practicable, the "working committee" secured the approval of the design by the President of the United States, the resolution of the Association in regard to the right to modify, being furnished with the design, and the appointment by him of the Army Board provided for by the Act of 1881, appropriating \$40,000 for the monument. The committee and the Directors, in accordance with the action of the meeting of May 19th, proceeded at once to procure the evidence required by the Board, and on the first day of July it was presented. The Board reported August 5th, but their report was not known till some time later, owing to the vacations of several public officers. It was found to be a trifle in excess of the funds of the Association. The design was accordingly reduced, but as Congress was about to assemble it was thought advisable to ask for a remission of the conditions on which the appropriation was made, and the authorization of the Secretary of War to detail an officer of the Corps of Engineers to superintend the construction of the monument in accordance with the action of the Directors at the Fifth Avenue Hotel meeting. A bill was accordingly prepared with this end in view, and it was reported favorably in the House of Representatives; and the Senate committee unofficially favored it. But it did not reach a vote. Accordingly, the Government money was drawn on the basis of a design reduced to 250 feet. As there was no prohibition in the Act against building a larger monument, the Government interposed no objection to building one. The moneys of the three States were released on the basis of a contract with Mr. William H. Ward, for a monument 301 feet high, and correspondingly larger every way.

The State Commissioners at their meeting on the 5th of January, 1887, were in favor of sweeping the hill around the base of the monument of all the buildings encumbering the site and securing about 44 acres of land as the Association formally, by resolution, requested them to do, so that a grassy slope down to the railroad, which was to be a principal art feature of the monument scheme, would be obtained. Their language in their report to the Supreme Court, February term is as follows: "There is no question but that the acquisition of a part, or all thereof (i. e. the 44 acres) is desirable" but owing to a want of immediate funds only about 12 acres were actually reported as necessary now to be acquired. This report is signed by Messrs. Barstow, Fuller, Walker and Prescott, Commissioners. Only about five acres have been secured under the act and the removal of only four dwelling houses and their accompanying outbuildings is so far secured.

The act of 1886 provides that the \$10,000 appropriated for the site shall be expended only on condition that the monument shall be begun within six months after the site is secured by the State and that the structure shall be finished within five years. A bond has been signed securing to the State a compliance with these conditions. The signers are Luther R. Graves, Wm. E. Hawks, 2d, Henry G. Root, Alouzo B. Valentine, John T. Shurtleff, Milo C. Huling, John V. Hall and Irving E. Gibson, all citizens of Bennington, but not all members of the Association. Work on the monument began on the 4th of June, although the contractor, to procure stone for the foundation and backing, had commenced work on the Lyman and Fillmore quarries before this. He has three years in which to finish his contract, but expects to be through with it in the autumn of 1888.

The tenth annual meeting of the Association was held Jan. 17th, 1887, Prof. Perry presiding. The Historical Society members, elected by that Society, for 1887 were John V. Hall, L. F. Abbott, Luman P. Norton, Charles A. Pierce, Wm. R. Morgan, E. D. Bennett and Jas. K. Batchelder.

The by-laws were altered so that the Board of Directors could be increased by three additional members.

The following officers were elected: President Hon. Benj. F. Prescott, Vice President Rev. Isaac Jennings, recording secretary Col. Olin Scott, corresponding secretary Chas. M. Bliss, treasurer Luther R. Graves, Directors, Benj. F. Prescott, Isaac Jennings, H. G. Root, A. B. Valentine, J. G. McCullough, Horace Fairbanks, Charles M. Bliss, John V. Hall, M. C. Huling and John T. Shurtleff. The Directors, *ex-officio*, were Gov. Oliver Ames of Massachusetts, Gov. Moody Currier of New Hampshire and Gov. E. J. Ormsbee of Vermont. The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That the committee of five appointed at the August meeting in 1885 be at their own request discharged; and that all the powers and functions heretofore granted to said committee, be granted to and reside in the Board of Directors; and the Association hereby confers upon said Board full power and authority to make contracts, build the monument, to be substantially after the design heretofore approved by the Association, and do all other things necessary to carry out the spirit of this resolution, as well as in respect to the release of funds for such monument and procuring and collecting funds for monumental and other purposes connected therewith."

A special meeting of the Association was held Jan. 19th, the Hon. John V. Hall presiding. Messrs. Hall, John T. Shurtleff, Chas. E. Dewey and Thomas White were elected members of the Corporation by the Association.

A meeting of the Board of Directors, consisting of seven local members, was held at Bennington April 12th, the Hon. John V. Hall presiding, at which a building committee was elected consisting of Messrs. Root, Valentine and Huling, to whom were referred all questions concerning the modification of the design of the monument, the employment of an engineer and the building of the monument generally. A new finance committee was also elected to raise further funds for the Association consisting of Messrs. Bliss, Shurtleff and Hall. Mr. Bliss declining the position, Gen. McCullough was elected to fill his place. Subsequent meetings of the Directors have been held, all at Bennington, at which a contract for the monument was authorized, with Mr. Wm. H. Ward of Lowell for about \$75,000; a committee appointed to have charge of the 16th of August celebration on the part of the Association, consisting of Gov. Ormsbee, Gen. McCullough and Messrs. Hall and Shurtleff; the citizens of Bennington invited to take part in it; the Grand Lodge of Vermont invited to lay the corner stone, and a suggestion made that the Grand Masters of Massachusetts and New Hampshire be asked, by the Grand Lodge of Vermont, to "assist"; and a committee of investment appointed consisting of Messrs. Root, Shurtleff and Huling, to invest the \$40,000 of the Government funds and the \$5000 of New Hampshire. The Vermont was already invested. As the contractor must expend \$10,000 of his own funds before he draws any from the Association, these invested moneys can for the most part remain on interest till work is well along next spring. The aggregate of these sums it will be seen is a trifle above \$80,000. The Association has also a few thousand dollars of uncollected subscriptions, and the State has appropriated \$10,000 additional for the site. The citizens of Bennington have from time to time contributed to the running expenses of the Association and the Historical Society, of which no regular account has been kept, as these moneys have never been in the possession of either the Association or the Society, but, taking the moneys contributed and appropriated from all sources, and the interest already earned and to be earned while the monument is in process of construction, the sum of about \$100,000 is reached. It is estimated that about \$20,000 more are needed to carry out the monument enterprise to the final completion. Thus, the contract provides for a wooden staircase; an iron one or a fire-proof inclined plane conceded to be desirable, will add several thousand dollars to the cost. Before the contract was authorized an effort was made to get a full meeting of the Directors, perhaps at Boston, as one of the non-resident Directors had suggested, so that all questions relating to the stone selected, to the modification of the design, to the employment of a scientific engineer, to the procurement of more land around the site, as the State Commission had pronounced desirable, to the building of the foundation at once by the Association and as a separate affair from the contract for the shaft; and all other questions, still undetermined, could be discussed at length. It was held that these questions were too important to be decided by a merely local Board, and off hand, but that they could be considered and deliberately settled by the Board during the summer while the foundation was going in. This effort to get a full meeting outside of Bennington, took on a tangible form at the meeting of the 26th of April, on a motion to hold such a meeting before the contract was closed, but the motion did not prevail.

An Art Commission has recently been appointed on the question of modifying the design for the monument which was referred to the building committee April 12th. This commission consists of the architect, Mr. Rinn and the artists, Messrs. Olin L. Warner and Thos. Allen. At a meeting of all the local Directors who were in town, held immediately after the annual meeting in January last, some such a course was unanimously resolved on. It is not the province of the *Banner*, here and now, to criticize the design. Provisions for its modification are still in force, and a clause in the contract provides for their execution, should they be decided on, but whether any alterations are made or not, it is certain that a most important Revolutionary event is at last to receive permanent commemoration by a towering structure on a most magnificent site. To this end patriotic citizens all over the country have contributed, the three States "whose embattled farmers' and artisans fought that August fight in their shirt sleeves and never thought of scene or fame," have liberally appropriated, and the Nation, whose existence was here made sure, has given of its treasure.

## ERRATA.

On page 3d, first column, in the 12th line from the bottom, for "coarse" read "course," in the tenth line, for "joins" read "joints;" in the fifth line for "jottled" read "joggled." In the twenty-third line from the top of the 2d column, erase the word "Generals."

At the end of the opening address of the President of the Day (page 6, first column), add the following: "In this duty he will be assisted by the Most Worshipful William R. Burling, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Masons of New Hampshire."





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